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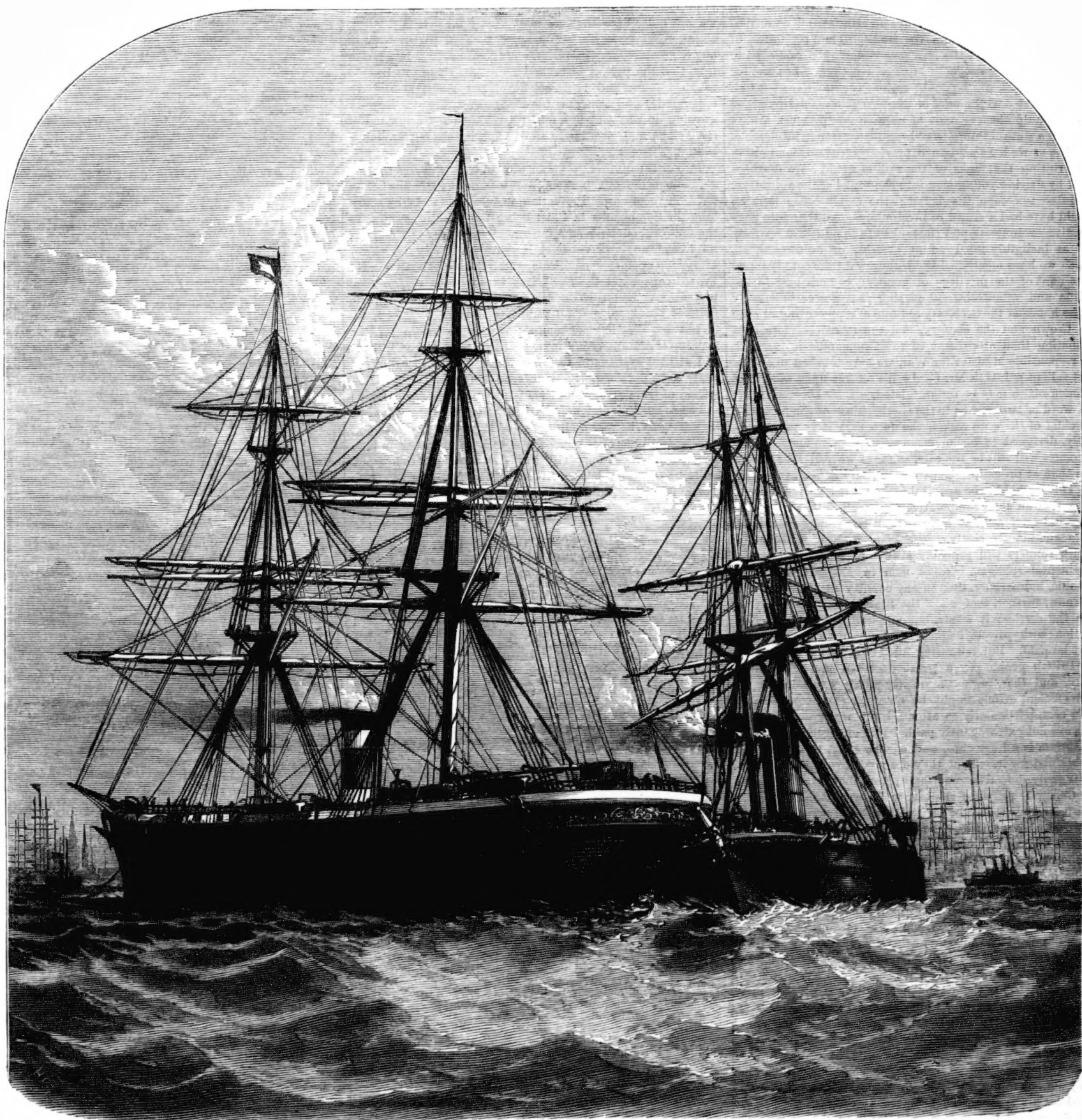
PRICE 3D.

THE ARMY REFORM BILL.

MR. CARDWELL, we must own, has agreeably disappointed us. He has dared more greatly than we expected; and yet he has not dared so greatly as we could have wished. His Army Reform Bill is a large measure. Considering the subject and its surroundings, the bill may even be called a radical measure. But it is not by any means a perfect—and therefore cannot be regarded as a final—measure. It is a good beginning of a great work; but it is only a beginning,

and will have to be supplemented by further enactments by-and-by. Indeed, Mr. Cardwell's omissions are as striking as his proposals; and while we heartily acknowledge the importance of the latter, we as heartily deprecate the former. It is something, however, to have made even a beginning of so difficult a work as the reform of the British Army system, encumbered as that system is by abuses and defects of all possible kinds; and it is much—very much—to have made so good a beginning as Mr. Cardwell's bill embodies.

If honestly and energetically worked out, the Government proposals will give us in time what we do not possess now—a real army; but it is clear that they will not give us a cheap as well as an effective army; at least, not for a long time to come, if ever. We say, if honestly and energetically worked out; but a great deal depends upon that *if*. To accomplish the ends in view capable instruments are needed, and we doubt if, under existing arrangements, those instruments are likely to be forthcoming. We may, we daresay, rely upon



COLLISION IN THE MERSEY BETWEEN THE STEAM-SHIPS WYOMING AND MOROCCO.



the present War Minister, so far as matters depend upon him; but, deft and diligent workman though he may be, we fear that the tools he will have to handle will turn out to be but indifferently tempered; and that some of them, at least, may prove a hindrance rather than a help. New measures, as a general rule, to be effective, require to be worked by new men; and we suspect that Mr. Cardwell has left too many of the old men about him for his new measures to have fair play. But of that more anon; let us look at the merits of the Government scheme first, and consider its demerits afterwards.

First and chief of all, then, the purchase system is to be abolished. "For that thank Heaven!" for no reform worth the name was possible while that huge abuse remained untouched. And here let us remark that those who clamoured most loudly about the defectiveness of our armaments have got a good deal more than they bargained for or wished. Army reformers like Lord Elcho, Lord Eustace Cecil, Sir James Scarlett, and others, only wished for an increase in the Army; they did not calculate on such a change as should go far to destroy the existing monopoly of military command in the hands of a privileged class. So far, we suspect, they are not agreeably surprised by Mr. Cardwell's proposals. But the monopolists' grief will, we hope, prove the nation's joy; and in that reflection there is much consolation. Then the amalgamation of the regular and reserve forces, and a free circulation of officers between the one and the other, are great points gained; as is the localisation of regiments, and (ultimately, we presume) of the army corps into which we hope to see the several regiments formed. That Mr. Cardwell feels able to dispense, in ordinary circumstances, with compulsory service, both as regards the Regulars and the Militia, is a matter for sincere congratulation, though on that point also certain would-be Army reformers will be sadly disappointed; for there is no doubt that they hoped to see a large development in Great Britain of that militarism which is the curse of Continental countries. To men not yet freed from the traditions and prejudices of feudalism, and with little else save "playing at soldiers" to occupy them, the notion of an armed nation, with them for its commanders, was no doubt extremely attractive; but to a people situated as the bulk of Englishmen are, and absorbed in civil occupations as most of us unavoidably must always be, such a state of things would have been simply intolerable. Besides, as we have said on a previous occasion, compulsion in recruiting the ranks of the militia would have defeated itself by driving young men into the ranks of the volunteers in order to escape the ballot; the result being that we should have had a crowd of involuntary—and therefore non-effective—volunteers, and the ranks of the militia as sparsely and as ineligibly filled as at present, or even more so. When we have mentioned the withdrawal from county lordships of the privilege of granting commissions in the militia and volunteers, and placing that power practically in the hands of the Secretary of State as representing at once the Crown and the country, and the more complete subordination than at present of the Commander-in-Chief to the responsible Minister for War, we have touched upon the most salient points in Mr. Cardwell's scheme upon which the commonwealth may be congratulated.

A word or two now as to the shortcomings of the measure; and chief of these we reckon the fact that it is not, apparently, designed to be an economical plan. Large Army Estimates will still be the rule, so far as we can see; larger even than at present, huge as our military expenditure now is. This we hold to be a capital fault, for it is perfectly monstrous that an army comparatively so small as that we maintain—and even as that Mr. Cardwell contemplates—should be so enormously costly. We know that, man for man, British soldiers will probably always be more costly than Continental soldiers, because men in England are more valuable, industrially, than in any country in Europe; and we know, further, that when the State is not at liberty to take the services it wants, but must enter into free competition with private employers of labour, a higher price must be paid. But, admitting all this, it seems to us that the British people pay a great deal too much for their Army, and that, were the money wisely expended, a far more efficient article might be obtained at a considerably lower cost, particularly as, after all, the really working soldiers are not extravagantly paid. Fifteen millions sterling per annum is a huge sum, and equally great things should be obtained for it. That they are not, proves that our system is sadly defective somewhere; and that, even when all Mr. Cardwell proposes shall have been accomplished, the British Army will still be far and away the most costly in the world, shows that he has not carried reform far enough, and still leaves plague spots untouched.

Some of these plague-spots are patent enough, and were clearly indicated by Mr. Trevelyan and Mr. Anderson on Tuesday night. To begin with, the expense of managing the Army is vastly too high, costing, as it does, four or five times more than does the management of the Navy. The system of cumulative salaries at the Horse Guards should be vigorously attacked; for it is preposterous that gentlemen should be both extravagantly paid for services rendered in the department of the Commander-in-Chief, and likewise liberally remunerated for duties, regimental or otherwise, which they do not, and while employed on the Staff cannot, perform at all. Staff salaries should be given in substitution for, not in addition to, regimental or other active duty pay. Then there are the honorary colonelcies, which are simply sinecures under a flimsy disguise. These honorary colonelcies are supposed to be given to veterans for distinguished services; but the great majority of them are held

by men who have never rendered any distinguished services to the State, and some by men who have rendered no services whatever. For instance, the Prince of Wales holds one such colonelcy; and, with all respect to his Royal Highness, we should be glad to know what services he has rendered that merit such reward. Special services should be specially and openly rewarded, not compounded for in this indirect and crooked way—a way, moreover, that opens the door to many and gross abuses. The system of Army supply, we suspect, likewise stands greatly in need of careful looking into; and were it so looked into, very considerable savings, we doubt not, would be found possible. A Baxter at the War Office, as well as at the Navy, would be a mighty boon to the British taxpayer.

Yet another point which we think Mr. Cardwell has been too chary in touching concerns the post of Commander-in-Chief. We have no desire to join in an unmeaning cry against the Royal Duke who now fills that post. His Royal Highness may be a tolerably good disciplinarian; but we want something more in a Commander-in-Chief than that, or we do not require so high and so costly an officer at all. We want an Army organiser, not a mere accomplished drill-sergeant or superior sort of adjutant. The Commander-in-Chief should not only know what ought to be done, but have the knack of choosing the right men to do it; and that the Duke of Cambridge is not a capable army organiser, is proved by the fact that the British Army is not organised as an army should be, and that there are no officers on the Horse Guards staff competent for the work. The British Army requires reform—thorough reform; and until the other day the Commander-in-Chief and all his subordinates were opposed to reform. What reliance can we place, then, on their zeal in carrying out changes to which they have heretofore been—and there is reason to fear are in their hearts still—decidedly opposed? Moreover, we doubt the wisdom of unlimited tenure of the office of Commander-in-Chief; and we are quite sure that no man should fill that post whose social, apart from his professional, position places him in any degree above criticism. We are inclined to think, therefore, that the post of Commander-in-Chief should be limited as to tenure, and that no Royal personage should be appointed to fill it. There are several scions of Royalty growing up who may by-and-by covet the chief command of the Army; and, as guarantees of capacity are not available, caution is necessary.

Two or three other points in which Mr. Cardwell's scheme seems to us defective remain; but we can do little more than mention them now. Promotion, in future, is to be by selection, the Commander-in-Chief being the selector, subject to the approval of the War Minister. But, so far as we can see, no test of merit or capacity is provided. Why not throw every step open to competition, and let the best man win it? Proved capacity is the right test to apply to decide rival pretensions; and such a test would exclude favouritism, indirect purchase, and all improper influences. Then, we do not see that any adequate provision is made for the training of officers, either for regimental, field, or staff duties; and without systematic training thorough efficiency is not likely to be obtained. Some information as to the Prussian system of training staff officers is given in another column; and some such system would speedily be introduced into the British Army, had we a Moltke to do it. But, as we have not, Mr. Cardwell must set himself the task of devising a plan that will produce him. Till that is done, and our officers are really taught their business, the British Army is likely to remain inefficient, however it may be reformed, and whatever it may cost.

COLLISION IN THE MERSEY.

A COLLISION of a very extraordinary character occurred in the Mersey at dusk on Monday evening, Feb. 13, which, we regret to say, resulted in the sinking of a fine steamer belonging to the Mediterranean fleet of the Cunard Company. The screw-steamer Morocco, Captain Leitch, 1212 tons burden, was proceeding to sea, bound for Constantinople, with a full cargo of fine goods, valued at about £150,000, about five o'clock. The Guion steamer Wyoming, 2205 tons burden, Captain Whineray, had shortly before come out of the Sandon Dock, preparatory to sailing to New York, and had cast anchor off Egremont Ferry. The anchor had held, and the Wyoming was just swinging to the flood, with her stern towards the Cheshire shore, as the Morocco was approaching, steaming to the northward, and keeping to the Cheshire side of the river, in accordance with the regulations of the port for outward-bound steamers. It happened that, just at the same time, a sailing-vessel was being towed to sea still nearer to the Cheshire shore than the steamer. The Morocco was in such a position that she was compelled to pass round the stern of the Wyoming, and the pilot was obliged to avoid giving her much of the starboard helm for fear of running into the vessel that was under tow. He would appear to have been deceived as to the strength of the flood, which was swinging the Wyoming across his course, and the consequence was that as the Morocco passed she caught the quarter of the Wyoming, which is a comparatively high vessel, of considerable overhang at the stern. The Morocco being deeply laden and a smaller vessel was much lower in the water. The effect of the collision was that the stern of the Wyoming swept the Morocco's deck fore and aft on the starboard side as the latter steamed past her. It is supposed also that one blade of the Wyoming's screw-propeller struck the Morocco on her side under water, and tore her plates open for some distance. This supposition is apparently confirmed by the fact that one of the blades of the Wyoming's screw was found after the collision to have had a small piece knocked off. The Morocco began to fill rapidly with water, and it was evident that she must very soon sink. The utmost alarm prevailed amongst the passengers on board and other persons on the river in the vicinity. Four tug-boats got hold of the Morocco with the view of beaching her between Egremont and Sencombe, and the greatest expedition was used; but in five minutes, so rapidly had the water come into her, the furnaces were extinguished and her machinery was of no use. Eventually she sank in four fathoms of water, immediately over the patch known as the Codlington Gap, a little to the southward of Egremont Ferry. She was not wholly submerged, but the water was level with her deck. The Wyoming sustained very little damage. In the evening the Morocco fell over on her starboard bilge, and all night lighters were engaged in saving as much as possible of the cargo.

Foreign Intelligence.

FRANCE.

M. Thiers, as was expected, has been invested by the Assembly with the chief direction of affairs in France, with power to appoint Ministers. The following appointments have been made:—M. Dufaure, Minister of Justice; M. Jules Favre, Minister of Foreign Affairs; M. Picard, Minister of the Interior; M. Jules Simon, Minister of Public Instruction; M. Lambrecht, Minister of Commerce; General Leflo, Minister of War; Admiral Potthuan, Minister of Marine; M. de Larcy, Minister of Public Works. M. Thiers himself has undertaken no special Ministerial portfolio, so as to have more time to devote himself to the general affairs of the country. M. Buffet is said to have declined the portfolio of Minister of Finance chiefly from fear of the susceptibilities which might be awakened by the political part he played and the functions he filled under the Empire. The new Government has been recognised by most of the foreign Powers—England, Germany, Russia, and Austria included.

M. Thiers was present at the Assembly on Sunday, and in brief terms explained the policy of his Government. At the present time, he said, there was only one line of policy to follow, and that was to put an end to the evils afflicting the country, and to put an end to the occupation of the enemy. The question of peace must be discussed courageously, and only accepted if honourable. The constitutional question could not be entertained while the country was in the grasp of the enemy. M. Jules Favre then proposed that, in order to facilitate the negotiations, the Assembly should appoint a committee of fifteen deputies to proceed to Paris and be in constant communication with the negotiators; and the Government proposed that during the negotiations the Assembly should suspend its sittings. These proposals were adopted and the committee named.

Public attention is now anxiously fixed on the negotiations for peace, which were opened on Tuesday at Versailles, between MM. Thiers and Favre and Count Bismarck. The first step in the negotiations has been the further prolongation of the armistice for two days—that is, till midnight on Sunday (to-morrow). Most of the French and German journals speak confidently of a peaceful issue to the negotiations. From Bordeaux it is stated, under date of Feb. 23, that the "conditions of peace have been agreed upon between the German and French Plenipotentiaries. The only points which are still to be settled are the guarantees to be given for the payment of the war indemnity, and these, it is anticipated, will be determined during to-day, and the treaty will most probably be initialed *ne varietur* by the Plenipotentiaries to-night."

M. Barthélemy St. Hilaire has made a proposition in the French National Assembly to the effect that the Assembly should form eight committees, charged to furnish information on the state of the military forces, of the marine, the finances, the railways, the roads, the postal and telegraph communications; also on the condition of the invaded departments, of the general commerce of France, and of the interior administration. The proposition having been declared urgent, the several committees were appointed.

The Committee of the Moderate Left have decided to reply to the proclamation of the Emperor Napoleon by a motion formally confirming the deposition of the Imperial dynasty.

M. Ledru-Rollin, who was elected in three departments to the National Assembly, has resigned, having previously declined to stand as a candidate.

M. Charles de Rémusat, who had at first accepted the Embassy at Vienna, has written a letter to the Government announcing that he can no longer adhere to his intention of accepting that post.

Paris is rapidly resuming her old aspect. The theatres are most of them reopened; the markets are well stocked with food; the steamers are once more plying on the river; there are crowds of loungers on the boulevards; the omnibuses are running; and the restaurants are open, prices being somewhat higher in the humbler houses, but the same as of old in those of the highest class.

The Mayors of Paris have signed an address, in the name of their fellow-citizens, expressing to the Lord Mayor, and begging him to transmit to the people of London, their gratitude for the fraternal sympathy manifested by England towards France. The address expresses satisfaction at seeing in the exchange of sentiments a pledge of union in harmony with the interests of the two nations, and necessary for the development of liberty in Europe. The address is to be taken to London by five delegates of the Parisian municipalities.

The news which has been published in reference to General Ducrot is incorrect. According to advices received, an inquiry has been held in Germany which entirely exonerated him from the charge of which he was accused, and completely established the truth of his statements. The General has gone to Bordeaux to take his seat in the National Assembly.

A report appears in the *Figaro* that a proposal for the neutralisation of Savoy is being discussed, and also that the question of the continuance of the Treaty of Commerce with England and other countries is under consideration.

A telegram from Versailles states that the contributions levied by the Germans in different parts of France, if not imposed in the shape of fines, will be calculated in the whole amount of the war indemnity.

BELGIUM.

It is shown by the last Census that 59,182 of the inhabitants of Brussels speak only French, 121,111 only Flemish, and 96,607 both languages; 150,265 know how to read and to write, and the very large number of 129,059 are completely ignorant.

SPAIN.

The elections for Deputies to the Cortes will commence on March 8, and the Cortes will assemble on April 3.

Returning home early on Sunday morning, President Zorrilla and Senor Hernandez were fired at in the Calle Pez by two men. Seven balls passed behind them, but missed and entered the wall of a house. The assassins fled undiscovered, leaving a blunderbuss on the ground. Several persons suspected of attempting to assassinate Senor Zorrilla have been imprisoned.

Senor Olozaga has been appointed Spanish Ambassador to France.

GERMANY.

Count Bismarck, being desirous of ascertaining the views of South German statesmen on the subject of the terms of peace, has invited them to be present at Versailles during the negotiations.

A Berlin correspondent says that the signs of approaching peace are increasing every day. Orders were received on the 20th to stop the trains conveying munitions, men, and railway carriages to France, which were just ready to leave Görlitz and Glogau. Until then the call for more reserves and landwehr-men to fill up the regiments had continued unabated. In every street in Berlin preparations for the reception of the Emperor are visible.

The Berlin papers regard the transfer of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg to Germany merely as a question of time. The *Cologne Gazette* says that the Zollverein is indispensable to Luxembourg, and yet it cannot remain a member without joining the German Empire. Sooner or later it must choose between leaving the Zollverein and incorporation with Prussia, and it may be as well to prefer the latter alternative at once.

The story about the burning alive of a captain of Francis-Tireurs is officially declared to be "utterly without foundation."

AUSTRIA.

The Reichsrath reassembled on Monday. The President of the Ministry introduced the members of the new Cabinet and made a statement, in which he said that the aim of the Government would be to restore internal peace, and that this object would be pursued by strict adherence to the Constitution. The Government will not abandon the constitutional path which has again been pointed out by the Emperor; but will, nevertheless, willingly co-operate

towards a constitutional alteration of those institutions which restrict the independence of the different countries of the empire more than is required by the interests of the whole. The Ministry would, for such a purpose, take the initiative. The Government promises to introduce bills which shall have for their object a constitution of the administrative organisation, on the principle of autonomy, the further development of free institutions, and a solution of the Church question.

THE UNITED STATES.

Congress has authorised President Grant to appoint joint commissioners to rectify the north-western boundary.

CANADA.

The Canadian press ridicule and declare groundless a statement of certain American journals that proposals for the cession of the British American colonies to the United States will be submitted to the deliberations of the High Joint Commission.

The Assembly of Nova Scotia has passed a resolution protesting against any concession of the fishery rights secured by treaty without the consent of the people of Nova Scotia.

LORD PALMERSTON ON FRANCE IN 1815 AND 1818.

SHORTLY after the publication of Sir Henry Bulwer's "Life of Lord Palmerston," journals by that eminent statesman of tours which he made in France in 1815 and 1818 were discovered by Mr. Cowper-Temple. Selections from them, relating to the occupation of France by the Allies, have been published by Messrs. Bentley and Son. The interest which attaches to the remarks of an acute and sagacious observer gives value to every line of the publication; but the parallelism between the circumstances in which it was written and those in which, more than half a century afterwards, it is published lends them added piquancy and zest.

The following entry, the first in the journals, exhibits certain qualities which have lately been conspicuous among a certain portion, at least, of the French people—ignorance of institutions and events outside their own country, and of the forces which had subdued them. It was written at Havre on Aug. 30, 1815:—

One of the douaniers who came on board the packet told us it was a great pity we had used Bonaparte so ill; that no reliance could now be placed in English generosity, but that it was evident we were not a free country, since the Ministers had been able to send Bonaparte to St. Helena, in defiance of the formal protests which were known to have been made against the measure by both Houses of Parliament. He affected to feel much for the fate of the Allies, who were only 600,000 in the midst of the whole population of France, and who would certainly be sacrificed if a scarcity was to happen. He said it was strongly reported that the Army of the Loire had gained a victory over the Austro-Russian army last week, taken one hundred pieces of cannon; but with all this, there was evidently a deep sense of national humiliation in all he said.

Our own correspondence and that of our contemporaries have furnished instances of a disposition to be on the winning side not altogether dissimilar to the following. Lord Palmerston is speaking of an old Royalist, a verger, or *suiss*, apparently of the cathedral at Rouen:—

He seemed strongly to suspect that the English meant to keep Normandy, and appeared resolved to make fair weather for himself with English travellers without loss of time. He assured us that two thirds of the town were generally anxious to belong to us, and, for his part, he should like it of all things—they would then be able to carry on their commerce with us so comfortably, without being troubled by "ces tyrans de la bas." It is amazing how prevalent this idea seems to be throughout Normandy. We took almost every possible opportunity of conversing with different sorts of people, and all of them—beadles, barmoids, postillions, hairdressers, boatmen, carters, and national guards—appeared fully to expect that they should be annexed to England, and not to have any other feeling upon the subject than a desire to make us believe that it would be very agreeable to them. It is, indeed, quite striking to observe how totally everything like manly feeling and independent spirit has been crushed by the successive tyrannies under which the people have suffered since the Revolution, and it is hardly possible to extract from any man a political opinion. They all say the same thing—that it is indifferent to them who governs, provided they are allowed to enjoy *la tranquillité*.

"Wherever we passed," says Lord Palmerston, "we heard complaints of the Prussians, who seemed to have behaved roughly. At the same time, when one asked details, with the exception of some particular cases of individual excess, they appeared to have chiefly confined themselves to heavy contributions. . . . They told us that it is an old saying in Normandy, of a man who is working against his will for the advantage of another, 'Qu'il travaille pour le Roi de Prusse.' They used to apply it to the corvées; but they now have more appropriate occasions for using it."

In the following remarks, Lord Palmerston gives the opinions expressed to him by the Duke of Wellington of the system of requisitions practised fifty-five years ago by the Prussians, and practised now:—

The system of individual plunder had been the ruin of the French army, and would be the destruction of the Prussian. When officers were allowed to make requisitions for their troops, they soon began to make them for themselves; and those who demanded provisions to-day would call for money to-morrow. War then assumed a new character, the profession of arms became a mercenary speculation, and the officer's thoughts grew to be directed to the acquisition of plunder instead of the attainment of glory. The Duke had succeeded in keeping his army well in hand. No officer was permitted to make any requisition for himself, but was obliged to state his wants to the commissary, who applied to the agents of the French Government for the articles required; and the supply being made through channels known to the people, and by authorities recognised by them, the burden was not felt to be so oppressive as if the exaction had been made by the immediate order of an enemy, and at the caprice of individual officers. The consequence was, that though both the Prussians and ourselves lived equally at the expense of the country, the first are detested and the latter liked.

The following extract affords a new view, or a new illustration, of the character of the Bonapartist family:—

Dined at Verrey's with Bruce L. Nervins Ment Breton, a man who had been chief of the police under Bonaparte for three years: he looks like a thief as much as a thief-taker, and has the most remarkable side look out of the corner of the eye I ever saw. He told us some amusing anecdotes of the Bonaparte family. He said that Napoleon was very much swayed and influenced by them, and particularly by his sisters, who were clever and ambitious women, and who often made him change determinations which he had formed with apparent obstinacy. He said the brothers were most of them weak and foolish, and had, all of them, the inconceivable folly to imagine that when they were sent to be Sovereigns of conquered States they were really meant to be independent Kings, and that it was often difficult to convince them of their mistake. He was at Cassel when Jerome came to take possession of the kingdom of Westphalia, and he said the little man strutted about and gave orders to the right and left just as if he was fixed there for all eternity; and when Nervins hinted to him something about the Emperor he replied, with admirable dignity, "Sachez que je suis Empereur chez moi." Nervins, however, who a particular business it was to keep him in order, suggested that perhaps the Emperor might send a General of Division to take possession of his kingdom if he gave himself too many airs; and Jerome appears at length to have been accessible to the force of such persuasive reasoning. One day, at a levee, a courier arrived with despatches from Bonaparte. Nervins, who had sent complaints of Jerome, and entreated Bonaparte to give him a lecture, was curious to see how it would be taken, and maliciously pressed the little King to let them know what the Emperor said. Jerome opened the letter, and with the utmost coolness and self-possession read it aloud to the Ministers and persons present; and as he read it, it ran that Bonaparte was delighted to hear how well he went on, that his administration was so prudent and popular, his finances so flourishing, and his army so well established that he every day saw fresh reason to approve the choice he had made of him for that kingdom, and ended by assuring him of his undiminished affection and regard. Nervins smiled at the manoeuvre; and, having observed that a tall officer of hussars had taken advantage of his superiority of stature to crane over little Jerome's shoulders while he was reading the letter, he asked him as they went out what he thought of the letter. "Think of it," replied the officer, "I never was so thunderstruck in my life. Why, would you believe it, I read the letter over the King's shoulder, and it was word for word the direct contrary of what he read in so unhesitating a manner to us."

These extracts will serve to whet the appetite of our readers for the whole of the pamphlet-volume, which abounds in illustrations of national and individual character.

SIR WALTER JAMES, Bart., has been appointed a director of the National Gallery, in place of Lord Overstone, who retires.

THE QUEEN OF SPAIN.

TROUBLE has already come upon King Amadeo of Spain in the dangerous illness of his consort, who lies prostrated with military fever at Alissio. She has asked to receive the last sacraments.

Maria Victoria, Princess of Cisterna, is the daughter of the Piedmontese Prince Cisterna, her mother being of the noble Belgian family of De Merode. To this Piedmontese-Belgian origin she owes the fact that she represents hereditarily at the same time the most decided traditions of Italian constitutionalism, and the most devoted adherence to the interests of Papal Rome. The De Merode connection abundantly explains the second fact. The first is equally evident when it is stated that her father, who took a prominent part in the Piedmontese Liberal movement of 1821, was condemned to death for that participation, hanged in effigy (having had the good fortune to avoid by timely flight the actual punishment), had all his property sequestrated, and long lived an exile from his native Italy. It was during that exile that he made the acquaintance of the young Belgian heiress—Mlle. de Merode. Though Prince Cisterna's Piedmontese property was sequestrated, the kindly feelings entertained towards him by the old King were the cause that it still continued to be administered for the benefit of the family, so that, when united with the De Merode estates, which trebled it in value, it made Prince Cisterna, on his return to Italy after the repeal of the sentence of banishment, one of the wealthiest men in the Italian peninsula. Prince Cisterna died in 1854, leaving his only child, Maria Victoria, barely six years of age; but he had already laid the foundation for his daughter of a system of education, scrupulously followed out by the surviving parent—a system much more in accordance with our ideas of the intellectual standard of a Victoria Colonna, and other Italian women of that stamp, than with the average run of the young Princesses or Duchesses to be seen on the Roman Pincio or the Florence Cascine. An early, severe, unbroken pursuit of mathematics and the kindred sciences—a comprehensive study of ancient and modern languages and history, a thorough training in at least the more important general principles of Roman and Italian law—such has been her course of reading and study, progressing from her earliest childhood. It has not been pursued to the neglect of those feminine tastes and graces without which no lady—however exalted her station—can ever command cordial interest and sympathy. At the same time there is no denying the fact that, however decorously Princess Maria Victoria Cisterna's petticoats might descend to her feet, the stockings below have always been of the most cerulean hue. The Finance Minister, Sella, himself a great mathematician, is reported to have left the presence of the august lady, after his first interview some eighteen months ago, in a state of extreme wonderment at the conquest which she had made in the domains of Lagrange and Laplace. To these pursuits she is extremely devoted; and no statement can possibly be more remote from the truth than that which has appeared in some quarters that the final acceptance of the Crown of Spain by King Amadeus has been owing to the ambition of his wife. Princess Maria Victoria Cisterna is a Piedmontese of the Piedmontese. By her marriage with the second son of the King, by her own great private fortune, she occupied in Turin a position held by no other person save the King himself; and it is believed that she had nothing so much at heart as to live in the old Piedmontese capital the first female figure in its society, pursuing without interruption her private studies, and only sharing with them the cares of domestic management. Holding the De Merode views on religious questions, she had not the slightest desire to be placed in a position which—from its greater prominence—might bring either her husband or herself in more direct antagonism with the Court of Rome. But, though it is quite certain that the Princess of Cisterna would have greatly preferred remaining plain Duchess of Aosta, it is equally certain that, having now assumed the duties and responsibilities of a Queen of Spain, she will, if her life be spared, bring to that task many right Royal qualities. It will not be her fault if the Spanish Court is not equal in dignity, propriety, and decorum to the best-conducted Court circle recorded in history. It will not be her fault if the aims and ends of Spanish policy do not rise far above those of cliques and cabals, and appear worthy in all respects of the future of a great nation.

AN IMPROVED MARINE STEAM-ENGINE.

THE attention of the makers and employers of marine steam-engines has been turned towards the best methods of ensuring economy of fuel, and a contrivance by which this result has for some time been obtained on land has now for the first time been employed with good results at sea.

Messrs. J. and F. Howard, of Bedford, are the patentees of a steam boiler, which they call their "patent safety;" and which consists, in effect, of many iron tubes, each forming a small boiler, and between and round which the flame and heated gases from the furnace are allowed to play. The tubes are so connected by other tubes at their extremities that their aggregate yield of steam can be used just as if it came from a single source, and the great advantage of the arrangement is that the steam pressure can be enormously increased without danger. The tubes are each tested to a pressure of 500lb. to the square inch, and are commonly worked under a pressure of 140lb. Any explosion would be limited to a single tube, and, as the fragments of this tube would be confined by the outer case of the boiler, the only immediate effect would be the extinction of the fire by the water that would escape.

It is thoroughly understood that the use of steam at high pressure is an important step towards diminishing the consumption of coal, and the results obtained from Messrs. Howard's boilers at Messrs. Crossley's and other works on land have led to an endeavour to use the same engines on board ship. So far as can be judged from a single trial, this endeavour may be said to have been completely successful.

The newly-built steamer Fairy Dell, the first vessel fitted with Howard's safety boilers, arrived in the port of London a few days ago on her first trip from Sunderland, and left on Friday morning week for Yarmouth, to take in a cargo of flour for France. On her voyage to London the quantity of coal burnt was not accurately tested, but it is believed that the ordinary consumption will not exceed 21b. of common steam coal per indicated horse-power per hour. Notes were taken on the voyage to Yarmouth, and it was found that a run of about eighteen miles occupied eighty minutes, and that the coal consumed was 320lb. The average steam pressure was from 140lb. to 150lb. on the square inch. From these data it may be inferred that the Fairy Dell would burn only about half as much coal as a vessel with engines and boilers of the usual kind.

Let it be supposed that an ordinary steam-ship would require 1500 tons of coal for her voyage to China and back. She would take, say, 1000 tons, at 10s. per ton, in the north, and would buy 500 tons in the Chinese ports at 40s. per ton, thus spending £1500 in coal. A vessel with engines and boilers like those of the Fairy Dell would need only 750 tons for the double voyage. She would obtain the whole of this in the north at 10s. (£375), thus effecting a saving of £1125 in money, and increasing the available tonnage for freight by 258 tons on the voyage out, and by 375 tons on the voyage home.

The Fairy Dell is owned by Messrs. Thompson and partners, of Sunderland, and is intended eventually to trade between that port and the Russian ports of the Baltic. The boilers are by Messrs. J. and F. Howard, of Bedford, and the engines by Messrs. Bates and Co., of Sowerby Bridge. The boilers are on the plan already mentioned, built up of 7-in. tubes; and the engines are on the compound inverted-cylinder principle, fitted with surface condensers. The diameter of the high-pressure cylinder is 8½ in., and that of the low-pressure cylinder is 22 in. With a pressure of from 140lb. to 150lb. in the smaller cylinder, these dimensions allow the principle of expansion to be carried out in a very high degree. It speaks well for the arrangement of both engines and boilers that

the ordinary engineers and firemen of the Tynne district have found no difficulty in working them. The Fairy Dell has been chartered in an ordinary business manner, and the enormous steam-pressure used to drive her has not as yet attracted any special attention.

SIR SPENCER ROBINSON AND MR. CHILDERS.

SIR SPENCER ROBINSON has published a reply to the minute issued by Mr. Childers on Nov. 30 relative to the loss of H.M.S. Captain. Sir Spencer sets out by proposing to show—1. The circumstances which led to the construction of the Captain by Messrs. Laird, and what there was unusual in the transaction. 2. That the officers of the Constructors' Department had no responsibility whatever, either legal, technical, or moral, for the success or failure; or for the safety or danger of the Captain. 3. The proximate cause which probably contributed in a great degree to the loss of the Captain.

Under the first heading the late Controller is very brief. He considers that for the lamentable disaster which befel the Captain there is a *prima facie* case of some default, either on the part of the designers or builders of the ship, or in the system on which she was constructed. As they intended her to be an efficient sea-going man-of-war, it was clearly their bounden duty to have ascertained the exact measure of her stability, and, if they failed to do this, the designers are to be blamed, and not those against whose judgment the experiment was undertaken.

Sir Spencer Robinson's second position is set forth more at length. He first defines his duties, pointing out that he was not responsible when his advice was not followed, or when he was overruled. He then endeavours to show, from the manner in which the Admiralty dealt with the cases of the Monarch and the Captain (these vessels representing two different theories of ship-building), that it was never intended for the advocates of one theory to interfere with the work of the other. It was not judicious to put irresponsible people in the position the Admiralty gave to Captain Coles and Messrs. Laird; but this position was made for them by the board, in 1866 and 1867, and maintained for them by Mr. Childers. In support of his argument Sir Spencer Robinson quotes a passage from a letter, dated Nov. 23, 1866, written by him to the Admiralty, to this effect:—"Their Lordships' directions to me as Controller of the Navy relieved me from all responsibility respecting this ship, except as to materials and workmanship." This view was acknowledged both verbally and in writing by the Admiralty; and Sir Spencer therefore contends at some length that the board did, in the plainest terms, remove from the Controller's department the whole and entire responsibility for the success or failure of the undertaking Captain Coles and Messrs. Laird had entered into. As to the delay which took place in ascertaining the actual position of the Captain's centre of gravity, it is shown that she was treated exactly as all other ironclad ships have been treated in this respect. Mr. Childers, in his minute, spoke of the absence of any warning from the Constructors' Department that the vessel was unsafe, whereas on March 15 last Mr. Reed stated his conviction that she could not possibly prove satisfactory. To this report the Controller specially called the attention of the First Sea Lord, Mr. Baxter, and Mr. Childers. It was also made the subject of a minute by Sir Sydney Dacres. Yet the Admiralty contented themselves with simply writing to Messrs. Laird, directing their notice to the excessive draught of water, and stating that the balance due to them should be paid on their agreeing to make such alterations as might be required after sufficient trial. In the face of this, Sir S. Robinson maintains that neither Mr. Childers nor Sir Sydney Dacres thought it necessary to make any further inquiry; but they took upon themselves the responsibility of ordering the ship to go to sea, with a view of ascertaining her qualities by actual experiment. Nothing was said or done which implied in the remotest degree that the responsibility for the failure or success of the Captain was to be transferred from Messrs. Laird to the Controller. If any such suggestion had been made, Sir S. Robinson would have suggested that a professional officer in his confidence should have been on board the Captain, and he would at the same time have raised an objection to the presence of Captain Coles.

Sir S. Robinson's reply then goes on to show that although Mr. Childers' minute professed to give Sir Thomas Symonds's report relative to the behaviour of the Captain at sea, it really omitted many important passages, containing expressions of opinion from Captains Burgoyne, Coles, and Commerell, all tending to prove not only that the ship was considered safe to go to sea, but was actually and practically safer if carefully handled. He (Sir Spencer) was so anxious for a thorough trial of the Monarch and the Captain that he applied to be allowed to hoist his flag alternately in these vessels. In order to do this efficiently he offered to vacate the office of Controller; but this request was refused, and he was allowed to go in the Monarch as a passenger only. The Captain was in company, and he made a report to the Admiralty on his return. Here Sir Spencer takes occasion to correct a statement in the minute of Mr. Childers attributing to him one or two solitary remarks, instead of making a formal report. "I had," says Sir S. Robinson, "shown, over and over again, that I did not recommend that ships carrying with them this element of danger—a low freeboard—should be built; but it was to prove the opposite theory sound—viz., that such ships ought to be built—that the Captain was designed and sent to sea. She was built to prove that she could be as good and safe a seagoing cruiser as ships with higher freeboard, and that theory or principle two successive Boards of Admiralty had decided should be tried." He adds that, after the Chief Constructor of the Navy had left office, his post was offered to a member of the firm who had built and designed the Captain, notwithstanding the record of Sir S. Dacres respecting the errors in the construction of the Captain.

With reference to the minute of Mr. Childers, in which Sir S. Robinson is described as having suggested that the Messrs. Laird should be communicated with, Sir Spencer points out that his suggestion was formed upon the report of Mr. Barnes respecting the shortcomings of the Captain, that he made special reference to this report, but that Mr. Childers, in professing to quote his letter, omitted all allusion to it. He proposed in this communication to call attention to the "serious and unexampled error" which had been made by the designers and constructors of the Captain, but "both Mr. Childers and Mr. Baxter objected to this letter being sent to Messrs. Laird, especially to the statements of the errors in the Captain's construction of which Messrs. Laird had been guilty, and suggested modifications; and, to my surprise, having left London under medical advice, I found that nothing had been done till after the Captain was lost."

The proximate causes which probably contributed in a great degree to the loss of the Captain are dealt with in the third part of this reply. After an unwonted display of crankness, observed by Admiral Milne, a few hours before the ship went down, "so unusual in all the Admiral's experience, so contrary to the former reports made of the ship's stability, we find her carrying more sail than any other ship in the fleet in a squally night, and with her yards braced sharper up than usual. Every ship in the squadron either shortens sail, or has been blown away. The Captain does neither. Have we not here a proximate cause for the Captain's loss? However faulty her design might have been, there is abundant evidence reported in the minutes of the court-martial to show that the ship and her 600 valuable lives need not have been lost. As the First Lord has included in his publication a board minute, giving the censure with which he thought it right to visit the proceedings of the court-martial held on the loss of the Captain, I am bound to say that I refused to sign that minute, not having been previously referred to about any court-martial and because I did not concur in it. I had, in October, officially called his attention to the cause of the Captain's loss, as proved by the evidence given at the court-martial. My opinions were confirmed by a letter written to the Admiralty by Admiral Sir James Hope, the commander-in-chief at Portsmouth."

The material passage in Sir James Hope's letter, thus referred to, is the following. It was written in forwarding the minutes of the Portsmouth court-martial to the Admiralty:—"In conclusion, it is proper to add that in the gale of May 29 last, when the Captain was under sail and exposed to the force of the wind, she weathered the gale in safety; also that she carried her double reefed topsail through the first squall that occurred on the night on which she was lost, but that she was capsized by the second squall, little greater in strength, which indicates that if her topsails had been lowered in time she would not have foundered."

WAR SKETCHES.

THOUGH the terrible contest in France has now been suspended for several weeks, never, we hope, to be resumed, sketches of incidents connected with it continue to reach us, and will, no doubt, still possess an interest for our readers. Most of those we publish this week were taken some time ago; but, owing to interruptions in communications and other causes, have only now come to hand.

The illustration of "Camp Life Before Paris," on page 117, shows that even the stolid warriors of Germany can snatch amusement from the hardest of conditions, and peradventure do a little private warfare on their own account, though with missiles no more deadly than snowballs. A pleasant relaxation from the sterner work of repelling sorties and levying requisitions must have been that friendly match among the fuel gatherers in the woods near Paris. The soldier who is loading the donkey's panniers in the left-hand corner of the picture, and taking so little

heed of the mimic cannonade, was well content, we dare say, to let the "scrimmage" go on while he appropriated the best of the "chump" pieces.

Another wintry scene, but of different import, is depicted in the view of the town and fortress of Montmédy after the surrender (page 124). But little damage, apparently, had been done to either town or fortress; though we daresay a close inspection would show that the German siege guns had not played upon them for nought. But the doom had gone forth: the fortifications were to be destroyed; so the people mustered, voluntarily or by compulsion, with pickaxe and shovel, to set about the work. A feeling of relief must have been experienced, too; for here is a washerwoman who has ventured out to dry her clothes upon the pales in front of the outer walls; while prudent men are turning an honest penny by providing refreshments for the workpeople. We hope the simple people of Montmédy will never again have to pass through a like ordeal—and that, too, whether their town be henceforth included in France or in Germany. Mr. W. H. Bullock, in a letter dated Montmédy, Feb. 17, gives the following description of the place as it is:—

"This letter ought by rights to be a picture, in two compartments. The one should give a distant view of the upper town, or citadel of Montmédy, seen as I saw it at sunset last night, standing out against a sky of Italian loveliness, calling irresistibly to mind Macaulay's lines:—

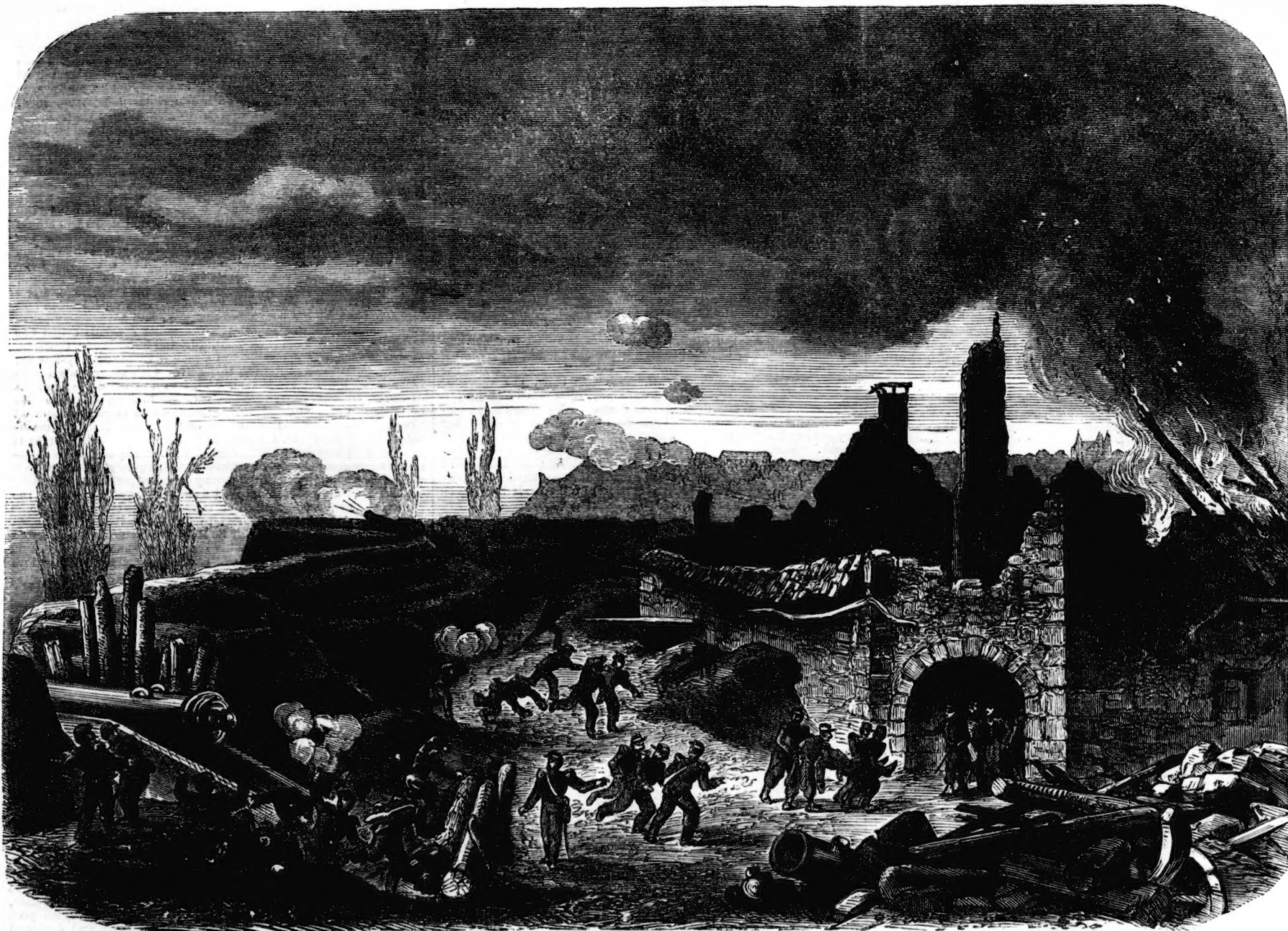
Like an eagle's nest,
Perched on the crest
Of purple Apennine.

The other should represent the battered and desolate aspect of

the interior, where almost every house is more or less a ruin. About the destruction of Montmédy there is, however, this peculiar feature, that the roofs, albeit well perforated by ball and shell, have still, as a rule, contrived to hold on to the tottering walls, so that the ruins are mostly partially covered in. Inside, nine tenths of the houses are completely gutted, and rendered uninhabitable by the gulfs which yawn everywhere, and render even exploration of them dangerous. The whole place may be compared to the look of a man who has just received a tremendous pounding in a prize fight, and is utterly unable to come up to time.

"The continued presence of the wrecks of roofs on most of the houses is explained by the fact that only about half a dozen caught fire during the bombardment. Into Montmédy the Germans can only have thrown a small proportion of the shells called 'Brenngranaten,' which are calculated to set fire to houses, and which were so mercilessly showered into Bazeilles and Mézières. Of the 600 inhabitants a large proportion still remain, clinging to the ruins of their dwellings. I am writing this letter in the only inhabited room of a three-storied house, the walls of which will likely enough be shaken down on Monday morning next at six o'clock, when the outworks of the fortress, now being undermined, are to be blown up.

"At present there is no dearth of provisions in Montmédy; for the 200 poor, who would otherwise be starving, are being fed by the Prussians out of the French military stores, found by them in the fortress, enormous quantities of which had been accumulated against the expected junction of M. Mahon and Bazaine's armies



THE WAR: OUTWORKS AT BELFORT DURING THE SIEGE.

at Montmédy. Of seed corn, I am informed that no want is experienced, and that all the fields about Montmédy were sown during the interval between the two bombardments, the first of which occurred on Sept. 5, lasting only one day, while the second, lasting two days, took place Dec. 13 and 14. That Louis XVI. should have selected Montmédy as the most secure place of retreat in his dominions when the Revolution rendered a flight from Paris necessary, does not surprise me in the least, now that I have visited the place. Just as the King of Saxony retired with his treasure to the rock of Königstein, when Dresden became too hot for him, or the Pope to Gaeta, so the attention of a King of France, when bent on safety, would naturally be directed to Montmédy. Indeed, had one to be besieged anywhere, I would not hesitate a moment in choosing Montmédy, so strikingly beautiful is the panorama from the ramparts. How Montmédy ever got itself taken is to me quite incomprehensible, for the fortress is carved out of an almost isolated and precipitous rock, commanding all the surrounding hills. Like Gibraltar, Montmédy is only connected with the mainland by a narrow neck, or rather a saddle, affording the only means of access to the place. Around the rocky headland, on which the fortress is upreared, winds the tortuous Chiers, which takes its rise near Longwy, and flows into the Meuse at Douzy. Beyond the river stretches away on every side a network of valleys, and out of the bottoms of which gleam streaks of silver, marking the course of the Chiers and its tributaries. Like the Semoy, which flows through Bouillon—a river and town which all lovers of the picturesque should visit—the Chiers is never weary of doubling back upon itself. It is a wonder to me that either river ever gets anywhere, so retrograde is the general tenour of their course. The Chiers, however, repents itself of its wandering ways before losing itself in the Meuse at Douzy, and, about Carignan, becomes quite a useful, commonplace sort of stream, condescending even to furnish motive power to a wool-carding factory, over which I was conducted.

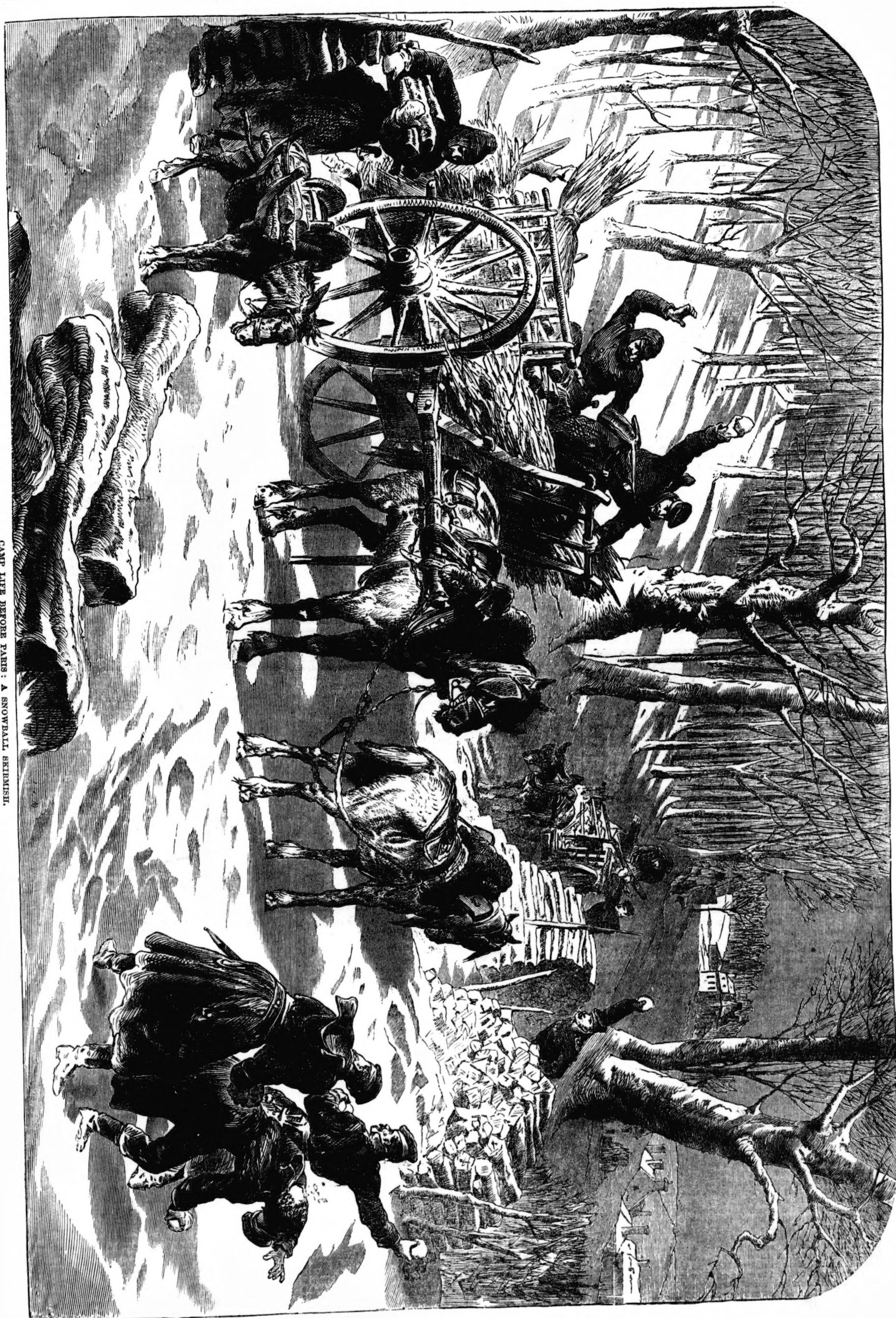
"Before me lies a history of Montmédy, just presented to me by M. le Maire. From it I learn that the fortress was captured by the French, under Le Ferté, from the Spaniards, who held out gallantly from June 11 to Aug. 6, 1657, during which period Louis XIV. himself was present in the French camp, and Vauban served before the place as a cornet of horse. In July, 1815, the French were in their turn besieged by the Prussians, who failed to get possession of Montmédy till Sept. 22 of the same year; but, once in, did not evacuate the fortress till November, 1818. Although foreign to my subject, this brief historical notice may not here be altogether inadmissible, especially when regarded in the light of an epitaph. For, before these lines are printed, Montmédy will have ceased to exist as a fortress. In all its corners, or, more properly, bastions, curtains, demi-lunes, &c., Prussian soldiers are at this moment busily engaged in breaking up the war material and ammunition found in the fortress, igniting the fuses, and other operations, which to a civilian render peregrination about the ramparts somewhat exciting. From one portion of the ramparts I looked down across the fosse upon a very different scene—a solitary Sister of Charity, seated at an open window, with her frugal dinner before her, awaiting the return of her little company of scholars, diminished since the bombardment from forty to twenty-five. In another corner I came across a German sentry devouring a letter from his home at Kreuznach, containing news, one can guess of whom, only forty-eight hours old, too!"

A more recent event is depicted in our illustration on page 116. Belfort, though the last of the French strongholds to succumb, and that, too, in virtue of a convention concluded at Versailles, and not by force of arms, had yet suffered severely in its outworks and other external defences, which had been shelled, set on fire, and considerably knocked about generally before the order to surrender reached the commandant. The effect of shells bursting in one of those outworks is shown in our Engraving. The surrender of Belfort, it seems, was the price paid by the French for a pro-

longation of the armistice. A despatch, dated Paris, 18th, communicates the text of an additional convention between Count Bismarck and M. Favre for the surrender of Belfort, and the continuation of the line of demarcation in the Cote d'Or. A radius of ten kilometres is placed at the disposal of the garrison of Besançon. Auxonne will have a neutral ground of three kilometres. The departments of the Doubs, Cote d'Or, are comprised henceforth in the armistice. The garrison marched out with all the honours of war.

From inside Paris we are able to lay one sketch before our readers. This represents an encampment of Algerian cavalry in the Champs Elysées (page 120), which are "happy fields" no longer. Like all the other open spaces in Paris, the Champs Elysées have been occupied during the siege—and, for that matter, are so still—by encampments of soldiers. In fact, soldiers everywhere, has been the rule in the French capital for months past; and glad, indeed, no doubt, will be the residents to get quit of their defenders and be once more at liberty to enjoy themselves in the outdoor resorts so dear to their hearts. This, however, is not yet a certainty; for, should the peace negotiations fail, the Champs Elysées, the Tuileries gardens, and other similar spots, are likely to be once again in possession of the military, but foes, not friends, this time. But let us trust that so sore a disappointment and so unwelcome a spectacle is not in store for the people of Paris.

We have but one other illustration to mention, and that is a view of Fort Vanvres, one of the detached defences of Paris, at the time of the surrender. The works, on the Germans gaining possession, were found to have been considerably damaged by the bombardment, but, on the whole, not so much so as might have been expected. Indeed, the same may be said of all the fortifications of the city; and, had not famine fought on Count Moltke's side, he would probably have had some difficult work to do ere he would have got into any of the outside forts, much less into the city itself.



CAMP LIFE BEFORE PARIS: A SNOWBALL SKIRMISH.

INNER LIFE OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.—NO. 391.

MR. CARDWELL'S NIGHT.

VERY full was the House on Thursday, Feb. 16; and what a congress of notabilities we had there! Four Royal Princes were present. The Prince of Wales, Prince Arthur, the Prince of Saxe-Weimar—whoever he may be; cousin, probably, of the Grand Duke—and Prince Christian; one or two foreign Ambassadors were also in the gallery allotted to diplomats, and some half dozen secretaries, who, in the absence of their chiefs, but not otherwise, have the privilege of entrée without challenge. And as to eminent military officers, they could not be numbered. The British Army was to be reconstructed that night, or, rather, a bill for its reconstruction was to be brought in and explained by our Secretary for War. Hence the extraordinary gathering of military notables. The Princes came down early; but though Mr. Cardwell had got under way, they were in no hurry to go to their seats, but preferred for a time to linger in the inner lobby and chat familiarly with members known to them—the Marquis of Hartington, Colonel Sturt, Lord George Hamilton, and other members of like rank. Very free and easy said members seemed to be, and not at all awed or stiffened in the presence of Royalty. It was noticeable, too, that his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales would dart away now and then to his hand to some member passing whom he knew. These Royal people, having gossiped for a time in the lobby, went up stairs into the Peers' Gallery, where places had been reserved for them. As soon as the galleries were opened a stream of people poured in to hear the wondrous tale which our Secretary for War had to unfold.

And many more
Mobbed round the door
To see them going to hear it;

and had to be satisfied with that; for no man without an order, got beforehand, had a chance of admittance that night. Titled people were there, and military officers of high rank; but without an order neither titles nor military rank could avail.

HIS SPEECH.

Mr. Cardwell rose about five o'clock. He spoke for nearly two hours and a half, and all that time he had the unflagging attention of the House; yet there is nothing fascinating, or even attractive, in Mr. Cardwell's speaking. He is somewhat slow, unimpassioned, and in style and manner monotonous. How was it, then, that he could thus hold the House for two hours and a half? No living parson could perform such a feat; no scientific lecturer, nor political orator. The answer is that Mr. Cardwell had something to tell the members which they were anxious to know—something in which they were deeply interested, which, in Lord Bacon's phrase, came home to their business and bosoms. That was the whole secret. Let pulpit and platform orators take note of this. During the last two years, and especially during the last six months, there has been much excitement about this Army question. At almost every gathering of the people it has been the prominent topic. If all that has been spoken and written about it during the last two years could be put in line (to use a military term), it would be long enough to girdle the island. And then, what extravagant proposals have been launched! The ballot, which we had during the old war, but more rigorous, as no substitutes were to be allowed, was advocated by some. Others declared that we must have the Prussian system—i.e., make every adult serve for a time in the Army. In short, very wild doctrines were preached—doctrines which till lately were never heard in England, and are repugnant to English habits and opposed to Constitutional theory and practice. When, then, our Secretary for War stepped to the front to speak with authority, and not as these unauthorised spouters and scribes, it was not surprising that, as he unrolled his scroll, the attention of our representatives was patient and untiring. It is not our duty to report or comment upon Mr. Cardwell's scheme; our vocation is to describe Parliamentary scenes and actors. But a word or two about Mr. Cardwell's speech. We have often heard the right hon. gentleman speak, and more than once in these columns described his style and manner of speaking. We need not, then, do this again. But our readers will expect us to say something about this speech. Was it a good speech or was it not? Well, our answer is short and decisive. This was by far the most important speech which our Secretary for War during his long official life has had to make, and it was the best he ever made. He had a great work to do, and he did it like a workman. He had to propound and expound a grand scheme of Army reform, and to defend it. The first part of his work, the propounding and expounding, was done with such clearness and perspicuity that the most dim-sighted soul in the House must have seen it as in a glass. And as to his defence of his plan, it was certainly, for the time, a success; and that is all that he could have hoped to attain. Mr. Cardwell cannot be placed in the rank of our Parliamentary orators. He is not, indeed, in any sense an orator. He is a plain, business-like speaker; a man of talents the like of which are not uncommon in the House; a clear, easy, fluent, and, from long practice and good sense, skilful debater. He is, moreover, a terrible worker. Though you may not agree with his arguments, you may be sure that his facts are incontestable; and, lastly, he is of so calm and amiable a disposition that if he cannot convince he will never exasperate an opponent. Mr. Cardwell has of late had scant justice done him; he has been called weak, and by scores of writers and spouters denounced as unfit for his post. But we venture to say that of all the members of the Government there is no man upon whom the Prime Minister more confidently relies than Mr. Cardwell.

THE DOWRY QUESTION.

We have frequently had to notice how grave questions often instantaneously change their aspect when they get imported into the House of Commons, and how bubbles blown up by the angry breath of platform speakers to a portentous size, as soon as they reach the clear, rarefied Parliamentary atmosphere, change their lurid hues, collapse, and pass away. We had an example of this on that Thursday night after the Army business was finished. The next order of the day was the second reading of the Princess Louise Annuity Bill. When the motion was made in Committee of the whole House, on Monday, the 13th, "That an annuity be granted, &c.," not a note of objection was sounded; and it stands recorded in the Journals that the resolution was "carried *nemine contradicente*." This was surprising and unexpected; for Mr. P. A. Taylor was in his place, and Mr. Fawcett, and many more hon. members who had pledged themselves to oppose, or not to support, this grant. A loud burst of cheering greeted the announcement from the Chair that the resolution was carried unanimously. Opposed bills are often allowed to pass their first stage without contest; but resolutions granting money, if objected to, should be opposed *in limine*—i.e., at the threshold, or the beginning; and we all thought that this resolution would have been resolutely and hotly confronted as soon as it should take form and make its appearance. But, as we have said, it passed *nem. con.* Nor was it opposed when it was "reported to the House" on the following day, and the bill founded thereon, which in due form was brought in and read the first time. What then? Did the opponents of the grant hesitate—"funk it," as schoolboys say? Not Mr. P. A. Taylor, nor Mr. Fawcett, we may be sure; they are not the men to flinch, though a world in arms confronted them. The truth is, it was their courtesy that led them not to oppose the grant at its first stage. They were ignorant of the distinction which we have noticed above. When the second reading of the bill was proposed, Mr. Taylor immediately rose. It was an unfortunate time. It was nearly half-past seven when the Army business was brought to a close; and when Mr. Taylor rose a storm of groans reminded him that the hungry members were in no mood to listen to speeches. But Mr. Taylor is not the man to be put down by groans. Steadily and bravely he went on his way, and if he did not conquer entire silence with his strong

and clear voice, pausing at times for a few seconds to allow the occasional blasts from below the bar to expend themselves, he made himself heard and understood, as, indeed, he always does, for, without pretending to oratorical graces, Mr. Taylor is a clear and forcible speaker. We once heard him make a speech upon the game laws, which, to our judgment, was one of the best speeches upon that subject we had ever heard. The Liberal papers gave the world only a miserable abridgment of that excellent speech—albeit they reported a shallow, flippant reply to it at length, which, to say the least of it, was an eccentric way of backing their friends.

Mr. Disraeli, when Mr. Taylor finished, formally supported the grant; and Sir Robert Peel rose, and favoured the House with an incoherent harangue, as his manner is. A dashing speaker, and brave, is Sir Robert; and he might have been a power in the House of Commons, but for one defect. Nature, when she launched him into the world, forgot to ballast his mind with a due quantum of the logical faculty—capacity. Sir Robert was followed by Mr. Goldney; and a very good speaker is Mr. Goldney, and generally the House likes to listen to him. But not now, Mr. Goldney. It is nearly eight o'clock, good Sir, and our dinners are waiting. Mr. Goldney raised his voice very high, and looked defiant; but to no purpose. A tempest of groans and shrill cries of "Divide! divide!" assailed him from all quarters of the House. And he had to sink into his seat; and then came the division. And what a division! For the grant there were 350; against it, 1. Thus, then, it stands recorded in the Journals. But we must add to each number the tellers, and then the numbers will stand—For, 352; against, 3. A very pleasant telegram was that which her Majesty received at Windsor whilst she was dining that evening.

TORY-RADICALS AND RADICAL-TORIES.

On Friday, Feb. 17, a cluster of young members below the gangway on the Liberal side of the House aired their eloquence and their statesmanship. The motion before the House was "That Mr. Speaker do now leave the chair"—that the House might resolve itself into a Committee of Supply. To this the Hon. Auberon Herbert moved an amendment, to leave out all the words after "That," in order to add these words, "This House is of opinion that it is the duty of her Majesty's Government to act in concert with other neutral Powers to obtain moderate terms of peace, and to withhold acquiescence from terms which might impair the independence of France and threaten the future tranquility of Europe." Mr. Auberon Herbert thinks that her Majesty's Government, or rather our Prime Minister and our Foreign Secretary, have shown a deficiency of wisdom in their policy in the matter of the war, and so he steps forward to supplement the deficiency. This is curious. Mr. Auberon Herbert is young, only thirty-two years old, first came into Parliament last year, and at present has achieved no reputation as a statesman. This, though, was not the only curious and noteworthy feature of this debate. Non-intervention has always been deemed the shibboleth of the Radical party. It was born below the gangway. Its most earnest, and able, and eloquent defenders—Cobden and Bright—sat there. But lo! now extreme, almost Republican, Radicals impugn the doctrine, and urge upon the Government an intervention policy, and Tory taunts come from Radical lips—witness that speech delivered on this night by Sir Henry Hoare. Indeed, the words and phrases which the hon. Baronet used are antiquated and obsolete even on the Tory side of the House. This, too, is remarkable. But here is something still more so. Mr. Auberon Herbert's clever speech evoked very few cheers from his own side of the House. Indeed, except those which came from the little knot of his disciples around him, none. But that is not surprising. The perversity from the faith are but few; the great body of the Liberal party is still sound. But surely this is worth noting: the cheers from the other side were few and far between, and never enthusiastic. Moreover, when Mr. Muntz, a staunch old Birmingham Radical, in plain, vigorous language, defended the Government policy; when Mr. Horsman spoke strongly in favour of the Germans, there actually came from certain prominent members on the Tory side of the House sonorous expressions of approval. But neither is this all. The most decided approval of the policy of neutrality adopted by the Government came from a Tory—to wit, Lord Royston, eldest son of the Earl of Hardwicke, late Postmaster-General in the Conservative Government. "I am," said the noble Lord, "upon many questions opposed to her Majesty's Government, but I believe in this instance their conduct deserves the thanks of the country." Mr. Herbert did not divide the House. "Then nothing was done?" Oh, yes; much was done; quite other, though, than what Mr. Herbert intended. He wanted the House to declare that it does not approve of the conduct of the Government; but he brought out clearly the fact that it does. Curious phases these, readers of the Inner Life of the House of Commons.

Imperial Parliament.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 17.
HOUSE OF LORDS.

The sitting of the House was but short, and the business transacted unimportant.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

OUR POLICY DURING THE WAR.

Mr. A. HERBERT moved a resolution affirming that it is the duty of her Majesty's Government to act in concert with other neutral Powers to obtain moderate terms of peace. He quoted largely from the bluebook, in order to show that England refused all concerted action with the other Powers, either to prevent the war or to bring about a peace.

Some of the speakers who followed complained bitterly of the policy of the Government as having humiliated the country before Europe. Sir R. PEEL strongly supported this view, and maintained that the irrevocable policy of the Government had led to the obliteration of the influence of England in Europe.

Other members, including Mr. Cartwright, Mr. Julian Goldsmid, Mr. Horsman, Sir H. Bulwer, and Mr. Muntz, took a different view, and regarded the motion as impolitic and ill-timed; while Sir Henry Hoare denounced the peace-at-any-price party. Mr. Torrens appealed to the Government to intercede for France, and Mr. Bass deprecated an extorted peace.

Mr. GLADSTONE agreed that an extorted peace would not be for the future interest of Germany. He believed that neither belligerent wished us to take out of its hands its own function—the statement of its views to the other; and he remarked that England had no reason to be dissatisfied with the position it occupied in European affairs.

Mr. HERBERT thereupon withdrew his motion.

THE DIFFERENCES AT THE ADMIRALTY.

Lord H. LENOX criticised unfavourably the condition of the Board of Admiralty, especially impugning the conduct of the First Lord. Mr. GLADSTONE energetically defended Mr. Childers from the attacks made upon him; and the discussion was kept up for some time longer by Mr. Corry, Mr. G. Bantick, and Mr. Baxter; after which the House passed to the orders of the day.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 20.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

The House read the West African Settlements Bill and the Benefices Resignation Bill the second time.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

ROYAL RESIDENCE IN IRELAND.

Mr. GLADSTONE, answering Mr. Stacpoole, stated that the question as to whether there should be a Royal residence in Ireland had been in the view of the Government; but he was not now in a condition to make any positive declaration on the subject.

Princess Louise's Annuity Bill passed its third reading without remark.

UNIVERSITY TESTS.

The House having gone into Committee on the University Tests Bill, Mr. Stevenson sought to expunge words which except persons taking a degree in divinity from the operation of the bill, but this was negatived by 185 to 140. Mr. Fawcett then proposed to omit a proviso that no layman, or person not in holy orders, shall be eligible to any office which is now restricted to persons in holy orders, which was likewise lost, the numbers in this case being 182 to 169. This serious reduction of the majority was loudly cheered on the Liberal side, and Mr. Fawcett bade the Prime Minister ponder carefully the significance of a victory obtained over his own party by the aid of Conservative votes. Mr. Gladstone retorted

that the Government had already pondered the matter, and their decision was irrevocable. Mr. C. Bantick moved to add a proviso to the clause, saving the rights of members of the Church of England to offices specially intended for them by the founders and donors; but it was opposed by Mr. Gladstone; and, after a brief conversation, it was not pressed.

THE BALLOT.

Mr. W. E. FORSTER, in bringing in the Ballot Bill, explained that it had been transferred to him from the Marquis of Hartington solely because he had less legislative work on his hands than the Marquis in his new position of Irish Secretary. Taking it for granted that the main features of the scheme of last year were fresh in the mind of the House, Mr. Forster went on to explain the changes he intended to propose in it; and, first, municipal elections, as well as Parliamentary, are to be included in the bill. In the machinery for voting two principal conditions would be kept in view—simplicity and complete secrecy—and by secrecy Mr. Forster meant that the voter should not be able to prove to any one how he had voted, because that would defeat the object of the ballot. To obtain this the bill provides that none but official voting-papers shall be used, that they shall not be given to the voter until he enters the polling-booth, and that the voter shall not put any mark on the paper except what is necessary to show for whom he votes. In like manner three dangers more or less peculiar to the ballot are guarded against in the bill—tampering with the voting-papers, forging them, and personation. Taking the last first, Mr. Forster, after arguing that a scrutiny is useless for the detection of personation and bribed votes, stated that the machinery of counterfoils, &c., contained in last year's bill, had been abandoned, and that no provision for a scrutiny would be made in this bill. But there will be a clause putting attempts to procure personation on the same footing as attempts at treating; and also, wherever it is proved that a candidate or his agent has attempted to bribe or to procure personation, in every case a vote shall be struck off that candidate's poll. The possibility of tampering with the ballot-papers is met by minute precautions for locking the papers up and guarding them; and, to prevent forgery, the returning officer when he delivers the ballot-paper is to stamp it with a secret stamp. The penalties of treating (not of bribery, as in last year's bill) are imposed on a candidate who does not include all his expenses in the return, and who pays personally that which ought to be paid by an agent. Among other minor changes, Mr. Forster mentioned that public-houses must no longer be used for committee-rooms. Nomination days and declarations of the poll are abolished; but all these details are to be open to the fullest consideration and amendment in Committee. Finally, he announced that the legal expenses of candidates are thrown on the local rates, expatiating at length on the objections in principle to the present system, and on the practical hardships it inflicts on poor candidates; and he concluded by an urgent appeal to the Conservatives to lay aside party feeling in dealing with a measure which, while it destroyed improper influence, would give strength to the legitimate influence of property, station, and blameless discharge of public duties.

The right hon. gentleman was followed by Mr. Leatham, who considered the bill a decided improvement on that of last year; by Mr. G. Bantick, who expressed his belief that it would be a most unpopular measure; by Sir Dominic Corrigan, who made a humorous speech in its favour; by Mr. Beresford-Hope, who approved of the abolition of nomination days, but was not in favour of secret voting; and by Sir Henry Hoare, and Mr. Henry James, who criticised the details of the bill. Leave was then given to bring it in.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 21.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Princess Louise's Annuity Bill, the Ecclesiastical Dilapidations Bill, and the Juries' Act (1870) Amendment Bill were severally read the second time; and the West African Settlements Bill was passed through Committee.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

ARMY ORGANISATION.

Mr. TREVELYAN moved the two following resolutions:—"That, in the opinion of this House, no scheme for military reorganisation can be regarded as complete which does not alter the tenure of the Commander-in-Chief in such a manner as to enable the Secretary of State for War to avail himself freely of the best administrative talent and the most recent military experience from time to time existing in the British Army; and that the consideration of the cost involved in the abolition of the purchase system urgently calls for the immediate removal of obsolete and antiquated sources of military expenditure." After expressing his entire approval of the proposed manner of abolishing purchase, he directed his first attack on the permanence of the Commander-in-Chief's appointment, arguing that it prevented the Secretary of State, almost always a civilian, from obtaining competent military advice. Quoting the evidence of the Duke of Cambridge before the Commission, he dilated on the absurdity of intrusting the new system of promotion by selection to persons who had confessed that they were unable and unwilling to undertake it. Many important military questions, too, were coming up for discussion and settlement—such as the localisation of the Army, the separation of the foreign and home armies, &c.—and the House Guards, he maintained, which had always opposed reforms in the Army, was incompetent to advise the War Office in regard to them. In a long digression into the condemned purchase system, he contended that the House Guards was to blame for its not having been abolished after the Crimean War; and in like manner he attributed to the House Guards the increase in the Army Estimates, which had not prevented a cry for larger armaments. Under this head, he went into a minute and discursive discussion of certain votes in the Army Estimates, laying his finger on such points as the sinecure colonelcies, army agents, &c., the retention of which he attributed to the influence of the Duke of Cambridge and the House Guards, and promised that the "Army Reformers" would fight all these matters in Committee of Supply.

Mr. ANDERSON seconded the motion, and inveighed against the past, present, and future operation of the House Guards' influence. His remedy was to reduce the scale of high pay and to abolish many of the offices, leaving their duties to be performed by military Under-Secretaries.

Captain VIVIAN, in reply to the motion on behalf of the Government, denied that there any longer existed a dual government of the Army, enumerating the changes Mr. Cardwell had made towards consolidating the House Guards and the War Office. As to the tenure of the Commander-in-Chief's office, he dwelt on the practical inconvenience of laying down a rule, and the impediments it would place on a free choice by the Government of the best man; and he pointed out that, though the Duke of Cambridge might have expressed to a Royal Commission his objections to a system of selection, he had professed himself ready to carry it out to the best of his ability if adopted by the country.

The debate was continued by Lord E. Cecil, Lord Bury, Colonel North, Mr. O'Reilly, Major Dickson, Mr. Bernal Osborne, and others.

Mr. CARDWELL declined to be drawn into a discussion of many points raised which more properly belonged to the coming debate on the Army Bill; but he pointed out that the dual government had been entirely abolished by the Order in Council of last year, and that the House Guards was about to be brought under the same roof as the War Office. The Duke of Cambridge was not the only person who was opposed to promotion by selection fourteen years ago, and his opinion then was no reason why he should not carry it out now. Considering the necessity of not lowering the importance of this high office, and the restrictions it would impose on the choice of the Government, he was opposed to limiting its tenure as proposed, and he earnestly begged Mr. Trevelyan to be content with the debate, and not to press his motion to a division.

Mr. TREVELYAN, however, refused, and on a division he was beaten by 201 to 83.

MR. GLADSTONE AND THE POPE.

There was some discussion upon the motion of Mr. W. Johnston for the production of a copy of a letter addressed by Mr. Gladstone to Mr. Dease on the subject of the preservation of the spiritual authority of the Pope; and the Prime Minister entered into some explanation of the meaning which he intended to convey in that document; but in the end, the House, by a majority of 63 to 90—declined to make of this private communication a Parliamentary paper.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 22.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

The Merchant Shipping Survey Bill, introduced by Mr. Pilsbry, was discussed at some length on the order for its second reading, but was ultimately withdrawn upon an assurance given by the President of the Board of Trade that, in the event of the Merchant Shipping Code Bill of the Government not being likely to pass this Session, the provisions it contains relating to the navigation of unseaworthy merchant-vessels should be welded together and passed as a separate and substantial measure without delay.

The Game Laws (Scotland) Bill and the Public Parks, &c. (Land), Bill were read the second time. Mr. McLaren brought in his Church Rates Abolition (Scotland) Bill and Mr. Sheridan his Lodgers' Goods Protection Bill. Mr. Hick nominated the Select Committee on steam-boiler explosions; and, on the motion of Mr. Glyn, a new writ was ordered for the election of a member for the city of Hereford, in the room of Colonel Clive, resigned.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 23.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Princess Louise's Annuity Bill passed through Committee.

NATIONAL DEFENCES.

The Earl of CARNARVON, in moving for a series of returns connected with our national defences, took occasion to comment upon the recent statement made in the other House by Mr. Cardwell when introducing his scheme for the reorganisation of the Army, characterising such scheme as utterly inadequate for the attainment of the object in view, and one of the most extravagant ever proposed by a Minister in Parliament.

Lord NORTHBROOKE, in defending the scheme of the Minister for War, deprecated any discussion of the Army Estimates before they had been formally placed before Parliament.

In the course of a lengthened discussion the DUKE OF CAMBRIDGE denied that he had ever stood in the way of any improvement in the organisation of the Army. On the contrary, he had warmly supported every measure calculated to promote the efficiency of the whole service and the interests of the soldier.

The motion was ultimately agreed to.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

DISTURBED STATE OF WESTMEATH.

The Marquis of MONTAGUE gave notice that on Monday he would move for a Committee to inquire into the disturbed state of Westmeath and parts adjacent, with a view to the consideration of its cause and remedy; and he should further move that the said Committee be a secret one.

INDIAN FINANCE.

Mr. GLADSTONE moved the appointment of a Committee to inquire into the financial and administrative of India, the right hon. gentleman indicating in his speech his intention to suggest that such Committee should be a joint one, to be composed of eleven members of each House of Parliament. A discussion thereupon ensued, in which grave objections were urged by gentlemen on each side of the House to the Committee being a joint one. Ultimately the motion simply was agreed to.

UNIVERSITIES TEST BILL.

The third reading of this bill was carried, after a statement from Mr. Fawcett reiterating the objections he had urged the other night against the provisions requiring the appointment to certain professorships being made conditional to the parties being in holy orders.

The Ecclesiastical Titles Act Repeal Bill and the Mines Regulation Bill were read the second time.

PARLIAMENTARY DIVISION.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—MONDAY, FEB. 20.

UNIVERSITY TESTS BILL.

AMENDMENT proposed in Committee, in page 2, to leave out from the words "Provided, That," in line 28, to the word "office," in line 38 (Mr. Fawcett):—Question put, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Clause?"—The Committee divided—Ayes, 182; Noes, 160.

AYES.

Alderley, Sir J	Dalrymple, C	Hanmer, Sir J	North, Colonel
Amory, J H	Damer, Captain D	Hardy, G	O'Connor, D M
Anneley, Col	Davison, J R	Hardy, J S	O'Connor, Don, The
Arkwright, A P	Denleah, C B	Hartington, Marq	O'Reilly-Denise, M
Ayrton, A S	Dickson, S S	Hemley, J W	O'Reilly, M W
Baggallay, Sir R	Dickson, Major A	Hermes, E	Palmer, Sir R
Bagwell, J	Dimsdale, R	Hibbert, J T	Parker, C S
Baily, Sir R J	Dissell, B	Hick, J	Patten, Colonel W
Baring, T	Dowse, R	Hill, A S	Peck, H W
Barrow, W H	Duff, M E G	Holford, J P G	Peel, A W
Bartlett, Col	Duncombe, Hon C	Holt, J M	Percy, Earl
Bathurst, A A	Du Pré, C G	Hope, A J B	Railles, H C
Baxter, W E	Dyke, W H	Ingram, H P M	Ridley, M W
Bazley, Sir T	Eastwick, E B	Jardine, R	Round, J
Beach, W W B	Eaton, H W	Jenkinson, Sir G	Royston, Lord
Bentinck, G C	Egerton, Hon A F	Jennaway, J H	Russell, A
Bentinck, G W P	Egerton, Capt F	Keown, W	Sandon, Lord
Beresford, Col	Elliot, G	Knatchbull-Hu-	Slater-Booth, G
Bourke, R	Enfield, Lord	gessen, E B	Scourfield, J H
Bourne, Col	Ewing, A O	Lacoe, Sir E H	Selwin-Ibbetson
Bowmont, Marq	Fellden, H M	Laird, J	Smith, A
Brassey, T	Fellowes, E	Lambert, N G	Smith, F C
Bristow, S B	Fitzgerald, Lord O	Lancaster, J	Smith, W H
Bruce, Lord E	Forde, Colonel	Learnmonth, A	Smith, S G
Bruce, H A	Forester, General	Lefevre, G J S	Stacpoole, W
Buller, Sir E M	Forster, W E	Lewis, J H	Stansfeld, J
Bury, Lord	Fortescue, C P	Lindsay, Hon Col	Steele, L
Cardwell, E	Fowler, N P	Lloyd-Lindsay, Col	Stepney, Colonel
Cartwright, F	Gavley, Major	Lowther, W	Storks, Sir H
Cartwright, W C	Gladstone, W E	Lowther, J	Straight, D
Castlereagh, Lord	Goldney, G	Mackintosh, E W	Sykes, C
Cave, S	Goldsmith, Sir F	Mahon, Lord	Talbot, J G
Cavendish, Lord F	Goob, Sir D	Manners, Lord J	Vivian, Captain H
Cecil, Lord E H B	Gore, W B O	Matheson, A	Walker, Major G
Chambers, T	Goschen, G J	Maxwell, W H	Walsh, Hon A
Charles, W T	Graves, S R	Meyrick, T	Waters, G
Cole, Col H A	Greene, E	Miles, Hon G W	Wheelhouse, W S
Coleridge, Sir J D	Gregory, G B	Mills, C H	Whitbread, S
Collier, Sir R P	Greville, Captain	Mitford, W T	Wilmer, H
Corbett, Col	Grosvenor, Hon N	Monsell, W	Yarmouth, Earl
Corrigan, Sir D	Guest, M J	Montgomery, Sir G	Young, G
Cory, H T L	Gurney, R	Morgan, C O	
Cowper-Temple, W	Hambro, C	Morley, S	
Crawford, R W	Hamilton, Lord C	Newport, Lord	TELLERS.
Cross, R A	Hamilton, Ld J C	Nicholson, W	Glyn, G G
Cubitt, G	Hamilton, Lord G	Noel, Hon G J	Adam, W P

NOES.

Amcotts, Col W	Fletcher, I	Locke, J	Rylands, P
Anderson, G	Forster, W D	Lubbock, Sir J	St. Aubyn, J
Amstutz, Sir R	Forster, C	Lush, Dr	Salomons, Sir D
Arncliffe, G	Fortescue, D	Lusk, A	Samuelson, B
Baines, E	Fothergill, R	Macfie, R A	Samuelson, H B
Bass, A	Fowler, W	McArthur, W	Sartoris, E J
Beaumont, W B	Gilpin, C	McClure, T	Seely, C
Beaumont, S A	Goldsmid, J	McLagan, P	Seely, C
Bentall, E H	Gourley, E T	McLaren, D	Simon, Sergeant
Biddulph, M	Gower, E F	McMahon, P	Smith, J B
Bolckow, H W F	Graham, W	Magniac, C	Smith, E
Bowring, E A	Gregory, W H	Maguire, J F	Stapleton, J C
Brand, H B	Greville-Nugent	Maitland, Sir A	Stevenson, J O
Brewer, Dr	Grive, J F	Marling, S S	Stone, W H
Bright, J	Grove, T F	Merry, J	Strutt, H
Brinckman, Capt	Hamilton, J G C	Miall, E	Stuart, Colonel
Brown, A H	Harcourt, W G	Miller, J	Synan, E J
Brown, G E	Hardcastle, J A	Mitchell, T A	Taylor, P A
Cable, F W	Haslam-Burke	Monk, C J	Tollmach, F J
Campbell, H	Headlam, T E	Morrison, W	Torrans, W T
Candlish, J	Herbert, A	Mundella, A J	Torrans, R E
Carrington, Capt	Hoare, Sir H A	Nicol, J D	Tracy, C B
Carnegie, C	Hodgkinson, G	Norwood, C M	Trelawney, Sir J S
Carter, Alderman	Hodgson, K D	O'Brien, Sir P	Trevelyan, G O
Chiff, J	Holmes, J	O'Leighen, Sir C	Villiers, C P
Chifford, C C	Horsman, E	Oway, A J	Vivian, A P
Craufurd, E H	Howard, C	Palmer, J H	Wedderburn, Sir D
Dalglish, R	Howard, J	Parry, L J	West, H W
Davies, R	Hughes, T	Pease, J W	Wethered, T O
Digby, K T	Hurst, R H	Phillips, R N	White, J
Dike, Sir C W	Jamieson, H	Playfair, L	Whitwell, J
Dixon, G	Johnson, A	Pillsoll, S	Williams, W
Edwards, Col W	Kinnaird, A	Potter, T B	Williamson, Sir H
Edwards, H	Lawrence, Sir J	Reed, C	Wingfield, Sir C
Ellie, E	Lawson, Sir W	Richard, H	Winterbotham,
Esch, Admiral	Lentham, E A	Rothschild, L N	H S P
Ewing, H	Leaman, G	Rothschild, N M	Young, A W
Fagan, Captain	Lewis, J D	Russell, H	TELLERS.
Fawcett, H	Loch, G	Russell, Sir W	Fitzmaurice, Ld E
Finnie, W			Buxton, T F

THE MARQUIS OF NORMANBY, accompanied by the Marchioness and suite, will leave England for Melbourne in April next, to assume his duties as Governor of Brisbane.

THE LONDON SCHOOL BOARD.—At the meeting of the London School Board, on Wednesday, a long discussion took place on the expediency of adopting a resolution moved by Mr. W. H. Smith, M.P., providing for Bible-reading and religious instruction in public elementary schools, but excluding all denominational catechisms and formularies. Mr. Morley, M.P., seconded the motion. The Rev. W. Rogers moved an amendment protesting against the discussion of any abstract resolutions concerning the principles or subjects of instruction in such schools. This, however, was not recorded. Mr. Chatfield Clarke next brought forward an amendment objecting to Mr. Smith's motion as being opposed to the system of religious equality, and as leading ultimately to denominational teaching. This was seconded by the Rev. J. A. Picton, and, after some debate, was lost. The discussion, having continued until seven o'clock, was adjourned for a week.

THE NATIONAL GALLERY.—The annual report of the director of the National Gallery states that five pictures were bought during last year—namely, a picture, by David Teniers, of "An Old Woman Peeling a Pear;" "St. Peter Martyr," the portrait of a Dominican monk, by Giovanni Bellini, imported from Milan; "The Procession to Calvary," by Boccaccio Boccaccio, imported from Milan; "The Madonna and Infant Christ, the Youthful Baptist, and Angels," an unfinished picture, ascribed to Michael Angelo; and a altar-piece, by Giam Battista Cima da Conegliano, representing "The Incredulity of St. Thomas." The collections of the National Gallery at Trafalgar-square and at South Kensington have (assuming that all the visitors to the museum visit the picture gallery) been attended by 1,913,546 persons on the public days during the year 1870—88,715 at Trafalgar-square and 1,914,831 at South Kensington. The daily average attendance at Trafalgar-square, open to the public 180 days, was 4915; in 1869 the average was 4911.

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SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 1871.

THE LAW OF LITERARY LIBEL.

THE ILLUSTRATED TIMES has more than once "ventured"—if that diplomatic phrase may be pardoned here—to call attention to the uncertainty attending the interpretation of the present law of libel. The case of "Sala v. Stoughton and Another" is one more illustration of an old text, and presents, indeed, an immense field for comment. To begin with, one would be glad to hear that the plaintiff had had the magnanimity to press the damages; and such is the "glorious uncertainty of the law" that no human being can even guess what might have been the result if the defendants had called evidence. To us, who have not read one line of the book more than has been quoted casually in the pleadings and elsewhere, it looks almost as if the publishers had issued the book flatteringly themselves they were serving the cause of good literature in doing so; and then that, as a matter of policy in Court, they, under the advice of counsel, refrained from calling evidence. But as—if the extracts we have seen are accurate—Mr. Tennyson and Mr. Anthony Trollope are, among the rest, most distinctly libelled, and might, either of them, bring an action against both author and publisher, we are utterly unable to understand how a respectable house could have "ventured" to issue a work which was glaringly within reach of the law. Neither can we understand, vague as the law of libel is, how the Lord Chief Justice could have said what is attributed to him in one of the reports in the following passage:—

If a man wrote even in an extreme spirit of severity as to the conduct of an author who affected to guide and teach the public, showing that he was himself addicted to bad and vicious habits, such criticisms might be made in a fair spirit and with a view to diminish the authority which might otherwise attach to the writings of the author, and draw away from him the mask of virtuous pretence with which he had disguised himself.

As we can scarcely believe that so clear-headed a man as Sir Alexander Cockburn uttered this dictum, we propose briefly to examine the question to which it relates.

If a man publishes a book, the tendency of the book is obviously within the scope of criticism—that is to say, any other man is entitled to express in writing his opinion about its bearing or drift, looked at from a moral point of view. Also, if a man in the pursuit of gain by means of literature is—expressly in that pursuit, be it understood—guilty of immoral practices, that is a fair subject of criticism. If, for example, the defendants had proved that Mr. Sala sold his pen to shopkeepers for the purpose of puffing bad wares, the jury would have been bound to acquit them upon so much of the libel. All this is as clear as sunshine. But if a man prints a perfectly moral book, what is it to any reviewer, or to the public as book-buyers, that the author leads the most immoral life in the world? And what would be the consequence of admitting such matters within the boundary-lines of literary criticism? Let us try and get round the subject by degrees.

Of course, a man's character is as much within the "purview" of his associates and friends as anything else about him. A. may criticise the life of B. so long as he is charitable and discreet in doing so; and the same all round the alphabet. But, until B. does something that brings him within reach of the penal laws to say the least, it is indecent to deal publicly with his offences, whatever they may be, and especially indecent to do it in the press; because its power so immensely exceeds its definable responsibility. There, indeed, lies the stress of the argument against all personality in criticism.

There was a case, perhaps not unknown to the defendants in this trial, in which a minister of otherwise lovely character and of great merit as a preacher, drank a good deal in a quiet way. His congregation knew of it, but hushed it up out of love, compassion, and gratitude; and at last the poor man died of a broken heart, of sheer anguish at being unable to conquer his bad habit. Now here, since there was a clear implied compact between the preacher and his people that he should live up to the morality he taught, they were fully entitled to deal with his defection from it. But are we to understand that the Lord Chief Justice of England lays it down that if this minister had written a book in which drunkenness was condemned, a reviewer in the *Times* would have been justified in publishing to hundreds of millions of people that the poor fellow did himself drink to excess?

To come still closer. If such-and-such a scandal, concerning a great Statesman, had been published in a review of, say, a reprint of one of his speeches; and if a "justification" had been pleaded and proved, would Sir Alexander Cockburn have instructed the jury that the libeller was right?

To come yet closer still. We believe it was the predecessors of Messrs. Hodder and Stoughton who published certain celebrated books of a late divine. Now, supposing some one, in reviewing a book of his on, say, covetousness, had stated in print what we have heard a thousand times in private—that he fixed a "covetous" tariff for his sermons on special occasions—would that have been justifiable, only supposing it had been provable by evidence before a jury? Again. After this divine's death another scandal arose. Of its truth we know nothing; but, supposing it was true, and had been known during his lifetime, would a reviewer of either of his works have been justified in stating it in the *Times*?

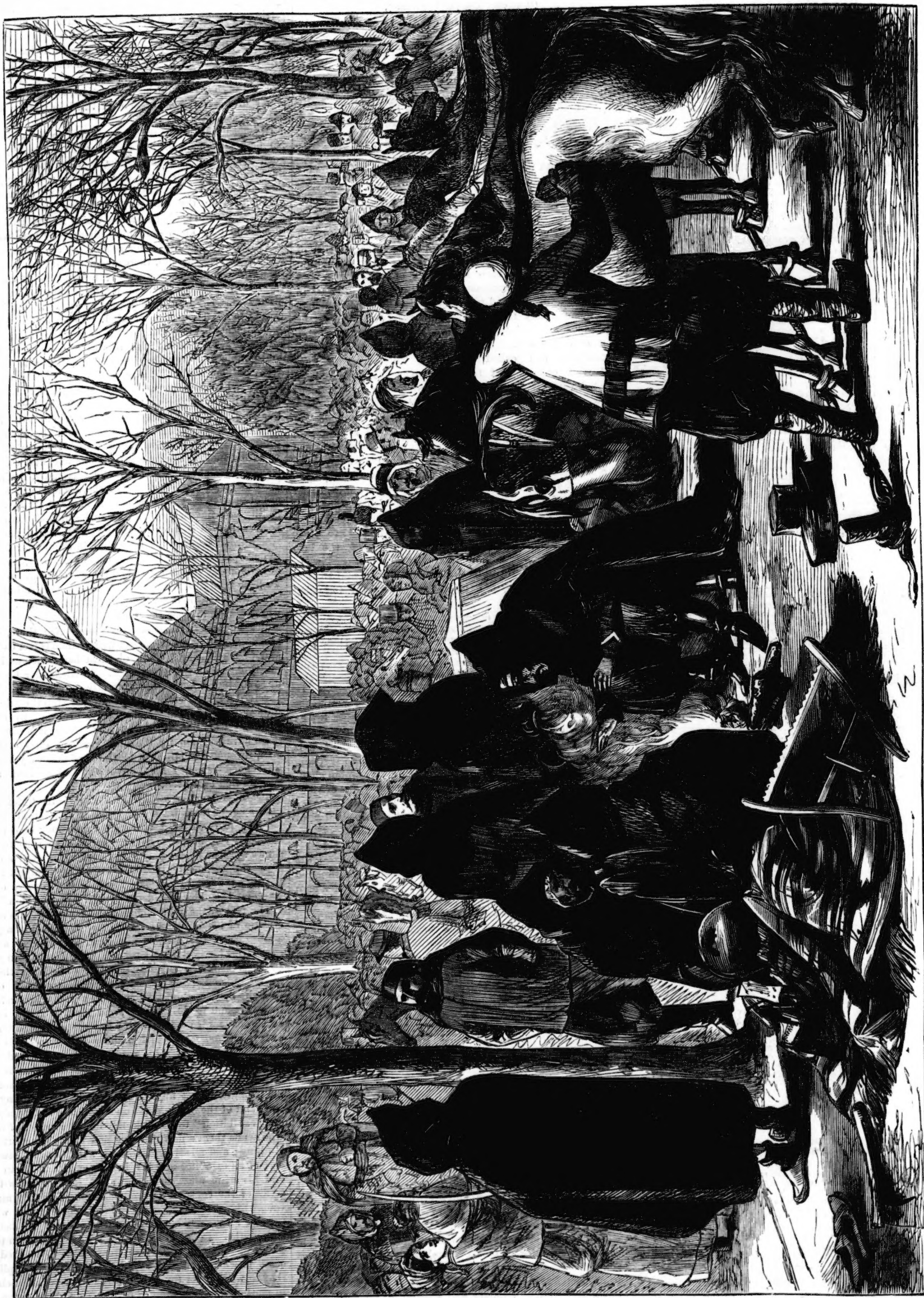
If, indeed, all this be so, where are we to draw the line? No man is blameless. If an essayist, perchance, praises good-temper in one of his books, is a reviewer entitled to hunt him up in his home and print in a public journal that he is a cross-grained person? And if not, why not, supposing the dictum in question be correctly reported? We will again take a case which Messrs. Hodder and Stoughton may know something about, only here we must be reticent, to avoid injuring some people's feelings needlessly. Many years ago, there was a "split" of some kind in a great religious body. The newspapers of each side carefully hunted up immoralities, &c., in the conduct of the other side. The result was disgusting enough. At last one article, more fierce than usual, led to an action for libel. A justification was pleaded; the most intimate and private affairs were ripped up; there was a column or two of undesirable reading; and much suffering was inflicted. Now, although the libeller had been grossly wrong in what he had said (namely, that the plaintiff had made himself liable to fine or imprisonment) the jury gave just a farthing damages, and the libeller triumphed. He had, however, done nothing but mischief, and the libelled man prosecuted to its natural climax a highly successful career. Now, his fault was quite a condonable one, and was rightly condoned. But that is not all. We, personally, having a full knowledge of his letters and of the whole story, were and are of opinion that such a person never could by any possibility be a fit teacher of a pure and spiritual morality, not because he had once done wrong (which was a pardonable matter), but because his behaviour in the matter disclosed, in our opinion, a very defective character. But, if a volume of sermons by this minister had come under our eye, should we have been justified by Sir Alexander Cockburn for relating what we knew, in order to "tear off his mask"? If not, where are we to draw the line?

Let us take a case or two more. Are there, in any language, two purer or sweeter writers than Oliver Goldsmith and Charles Lamb? Both of them had "vicious habits" pretty much of the same kind. Sir Alexander Cockburn's dictum, if his words are correctly reported, would have absolved a reviewer who endeavoured to stop the sale of the "Vicar of Wakefield" and "Essays of Elia" by exposing the "vicious habits" of the authors. Now, it is certain that these have been among the most precious gifts of God to man, through His minister, Genius, and that they have done more good—we beg his Lordship's pardon—than all the lawyers that ever lived.

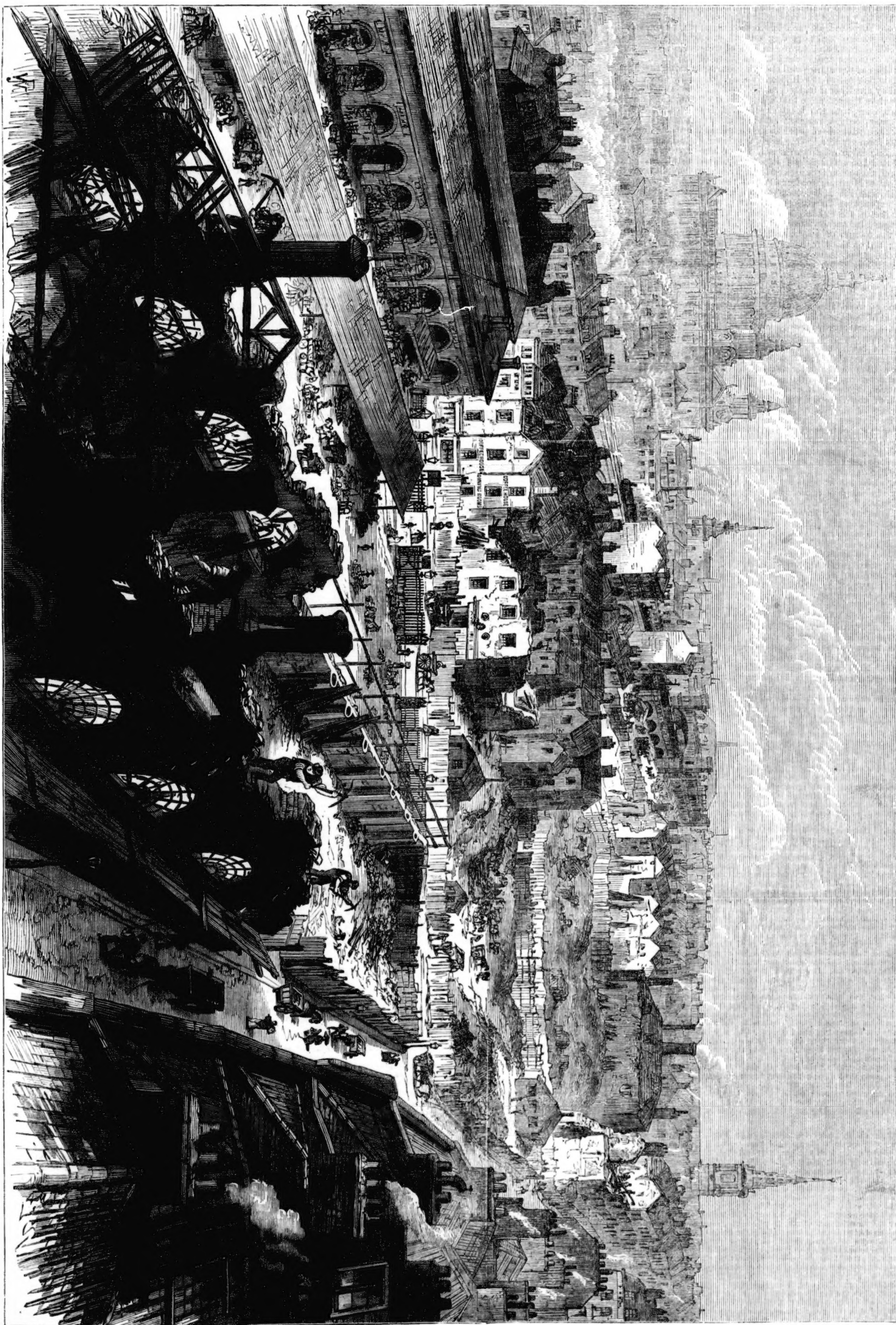
There is another difficulty. The Lord Chief Justice knows better than we do a passage in Blackstone, in which he lays it down that a certain crime may be committed against a very irregular liver; "for the law mercifully presumes that the person may have forsaken that course of life." Now suppose, while the book attacking a culprit is going through the press, he "has forsaken that course of life," whatever it is, how would the plea of "justification" work?

The fact is, the moral character of an author is as much outside of his compact with his clients as that of a painter, a musician, a barrister, or a doctor. Suppose an able barrister wins heavy damages for a father in an action *per quod servitium amisit*, is anybody entitled to write to the *Times* next day, and state that he is ready to prove on oath that the barrister himself is liable to a similar action? Every man is bound to do his duty, and must take the ordinary social chances if he fails in it; but there the matter stops. Porson's drunkenness had nothing to do with his Greek; nor was Hartley Coleridge's any concern of his readers. An author contracts to supply a good book, and that is all his critic has any right to meddle with; unless the author makes his wrong-doing, if any, public property by coming under the hand of the law. What on earth have the "judges" in an "exhibition" to do with the moral conduct of the man who sends them a new rifle or a new pickle to report upon? Nothing; and all attempts to draw a distinction between the case of an exhibitor and his judges and that of an author and his critic must break down. Whatever lies within the terms of the contract or understanding is fairly matter of comment. Admit anything else, and where could we draw the line? Why, the world would be an enraged bedlam in six months. It has always been felt by good men that the power of the press is far too tremendous to be used in the cases in which ordinary social censure rightly applies, and that to wield it for the public criticism of personal character in matters in which there is no defence but an action at law, and which are outside the pale of a man's compact with his clients, is an outrage of the worst order.

THE REV. MR. VOYSEY.—The next proceeding in the case of the Rev. Mr. Voysey will be for her Majesty, by an Order in Council, to confirm the judgment of the Judicial Committee, depriving Mr. Voysey of his living as minister of Healaugh, Tadcaster, for heresy. Mr. Voysey will be served with notice, and the sentence of deprivation exhibited on the church door of Healaugh. The Registrar of Ecclesiastical Appeals will tax the costs, which must necessarily amount to a considerable sum, which Mr. Voysey will be called upon to pay. The population of the parish, according to the late Census, amounted to only 228, and the stipend to about £100 a year.



PARIS DURING THE SIEGE: AN ENCAMPMENT OF ALGERIAN CAVALRY IN THE CHAMPS ELYSEES.—(SEE PAGE 116.)



LONDON IMPROVEMENTS: PREPARING THE GROUND FOR THE NEW STREET FROM HOLBORN TO LUDGATE-CIRCUS.

THE LOUNGER.

I wish, Sir, that some of your contemporaries would be a little less dogmatic in their deliverances, and so avoid bringing journalism into ridicule. A proposal has lately been made, with the view of inducing a superior class of men to enter the Army, that certain messengerships and other subordinate posts in our public offices should be thrown open to discharged soldiers of intelligence and good conduct, instead of being reserved, as at present, as comfortable roosting-places for effete butlers and footmen whose calves have degenerated. I shall not discuss the wisdom of this project; but in an evening paper, famous for its assumption of superior information, I find the following passage in an article on the subject:—"That under this innovation the principle of competition would be entirely broken down requires very little proof. According to the proposers, that principle would continue to be

applied for the eight or ten thousand places of which the duties require ascertained intellectual fitness. But this is a supposition founded on mere ignorance of the actual constitution of public offices. Now, two of the chief "proposers of this innovation" are Lord Derby and Sir Charles Trevelyan, both of whom, if I am not mistaken, have had considerable experience of "public offices," and must therefore, one would fancy, have some knowledge of their "actual constitution." The taunt of "mere ignorance," consequently, must apply somewhere else. Perhaps it might "go home to roost." Eh?

THE LITERARY LOUNGER.

THE MAGAZINES, ETC.

Among new publications a word is due to Mr. George M'Donald's "David Elginbrod," which is now reprinted in a cheap form. This is, to quote Artemus Ward, "a sweet boon." The story is not so full of fine matter as some of the author's later productions, but it has a unity and purpose of its own, and a more severe simplicity than some of its successors—at least, that is my recollection about a book to which I shall always feel grateful. Among new works, "Madeline, and other Poems and Parables," by Thomas Gordon Hake, M.D., demands a word of instant recognition as a curiously original book. To pass to another new corner which there is not space at once to review, I may assure the reader that "Episodes of an Obscure Life," a series of story-sketches, drawn from the point of view of an East-End Curate, and, for what any of us know, or have a right to know, founded on actual experiences of some such person, are particularly deserving of attention. They are written in a beautiful spirit, and are full of high and encouraging thought, while among many highly-literary merits they unite the accuracy of the photograph with the strength and colour of a painting. "The Autobiography of Brougham," of which the first volume is out, demands more than a hasty word.

In *Belgravia* there is an article by Mr. T. H. S. Escott, which is mainly concerned with "Mr. Shallowby Hum" and his "honest criticism." Whether the sketch be imaginary or not, Mr. Shallowby Hum, as sketched by Mr. Escott, is an ugly customer; but what can you do with him, supposing him to be real? His shabby dexterity will always defeat you. Prove that he cannot write English; that he cannot quote even the Lord's Prayer correctly; that his most favourable "criticism" is an involuntary libel. He will flourish and fatten on what would crush the life out of any one but a writer of the Shallowby Hum persuasion. Nor is the reason far to see—it lies in a nutshell. A man of the Shallowby Hum type has the countersign—he knows the password. His main policy in literature is to get a sly grip of certain elements in the public to whom he appeals. Of course then he is safe. And nobody knows it better than himself. If by chance he gets overtaken by what ten people think righteous retribution, he knows—who knows so well—that ten thousand will consider him a victim, and probably combine to present him with a testimonial. It is among the ascertained facts of history, that nobody ever meddled with an individual of the Shallowby Hum persuasion—poet, painter, preacher, *littérateur*, or what not—without getting the worst of it. And the reason may be again commended to Mr. Escott's consideration—the Shallowby Hums have underground telegraphic communication with the whole of their immense circle of relatives, among publishers and the general public. Suppose you prove that any one of them makes on every other page a mistake for which a ten-year-old boy would be fool-capped on the spot? What then? The immense Shallowby Hum family will be up in arms against you. "Cruel, uncharitable monster!" they will cry, "is not human nature fallible? Do we not all make mistakes?" And when you say, "Yes, we do," they will set their feet on your neck and howl in triumph, quite ignorant that there are mistakes and mistakes. They do not know—poor souls! how should they?—that Henry Hallam's famous Pindar blunder left Hallam as great a man as ever; but that a sentence like the second of the following is beyond the limits of toleration, and is sufficient to thrust a man outside the pale of literature for ever. "As soon as the bones are united to their epiphyses the animal ceases to grow. Any person of an inquiring spirit, when picking a chicken, can ascertain this truth!" Now, not even a Shallowby Hum could intend to make the insane statement that you could "ascertain" a generalisation from an individual case. But this is only half the absurdity; for how can the most "inquiring spirit" in the world "ascertain" from the study of a living or dead chicken or any other creature that "as soon as the bones are," &c., an animal ceases to grow? It is a fine problem for an "inquiring spirit." If, however, Mr. Escott has the remotest hope that he can put down Shallowby Hum, let him go systematically to work, and examine that writer's works—supposing him to be a real person—from the commencement. Take the first edition of his first successful book, and see what a mere history of the titlepage of the volume will yield. But my humble advice to Mr. Escott is, leave all such people alone, unless you have the stomach of an ostrich and plenty of money. Otherwise, you will get the worst of it; and just when you are fancying you have made an impression you will find all the "serious" public in arms to defend him; while you, Mr. Escott, will be crushed. Silly man, serve you right! Nor, when you have done all this, will you have hit upon the worst point of all literature of the same school. That point is that the literature is invariably found to be in close alliance and perfect understanding with the very worst sections of that public which takes "other-worldliness" for religion. Mr. Escott knows what it is to deal with a coterie of that class, and that it is impossible to get them to come out from behind their incriminations.

But this need not prevent my writing about reviews a word or two, specially addressed to the reading public, and applying to books in general. Do not be led astray by vague or garbled bits out of reviews. The following rules will go a long way:—1. A review is certain to be no real clue to the merit of a book unless it contains, not commonplaces of praise, but a direct and positive assertion of its intellectual and literary, as well as moral qualities. For example, a review which tells you that "the aim of this writer is to produce a pure and beautiful character" is of no value as guidance—it is deliberate evasion on the reviewer's part; for a man may have ever such a good "aim" and yet be a dunder. 2. When a broken phrase out of a review is quoted, it is most likely a case of garbling. E.g.:—"Deserves to be imprinted on every heart."—*Evening Journal*. If you turn to the *Evening Journal* you will probably find the original ran thus:—"The sentiment quoted by our author from Jeremy Taylor deserves." &c. Or, again:—"A brilliant thought on every page."—*Morning Ambassador*. The original of this quotation would probably be:—"A brilliant thought from some great writer is quoted out of the stores of the author's reading on every page." Aunt Judy is as good as ever, and the "Cot" flourishes—long may it do so!

THE THEATRICAL LOUNGER.

Morning performances appear to be quite the rage just now, particularly on Saturdays, when most men are lucky enough to be released from work pretty early, and are not ill-disposed to get their amusements over before late dinner-time, which really means supper. These morning, or, to speak more correctly, afternoon performances have many recommendations. They suit suburban folk, they are handy for children, and they do not entail any extra dressing for the play. It seems rather dissipated, perhaps, to leave the daylight and sunlight for the artificial glare of the theatre; but that the novelty is attractive there can be no question. I hear of no complaints. The artists are not averse to a little extra notoriety; and, as they receive additional salaries, I do not expect there will be much complaint in that quarter. If the craze spread, the only people who will be much affected are the energetic gentlemen who chronicle the dramatic news of the

week, and who find it hard work, as it is, to keep abreast of the oft-recurring novelties at our numerous theatrical establishments.

The Gaiety has specially laid down a programme for these afternoon performances. The indefatigable Mr. Toole is the life and soul of the Gaiety Saturday afternoon entertainment, and, unmindful of his work at night, this energetic gentleman thinks nothing of playing in addition a farce to begin with, the Pickwick scene to follow, and an operatic extravaganza for a finale. The Pickwick scene goes wonderfully well; but I must say that I was a little disappointed with Mr. Toole's Sergeant Buzfuz. All the tricks are admirable. The barrister business is admirably caricatured. Here Mr. Toole never misses a point; but, with such an intensely humorous speech to deliver, I wonder Mr. Toole did not make more of the satire on a certain class of forensic oratory. The "business" was perfect, but the words were occasionally slurred over. I was surprised, for instance, to find so little attention paid to the passage, "the train was laid, the sappers and miners were at work," &c. Here is a capital opportunity for a sudden change of tone and manner; but Mr. Toole delivered most of the speech in the same key, and it was too low a key for some passages. However, it is very amusing. The Judge Starleigh of Mr. Toole is inimitable. This is a perfect bit of character. Mr. Soutar, Miss Farren, and Mrs. Leigh are nothing like the Winkle, the Sam Weller, or the Mrs. Cluppings of the book. They are not the characters as we read and know them, but they serve their purpose and contribute to the success of the sketch. Mr. Santley has promised to sing at the Gaiety one of these Saturdays, and there are many novelties and good things in store. Mr. H. J. Byron's new domestic drama, written expressly for Mr. Toole, will be produced on Wednesday week. The title will most probably be the name of the hero, who is a young carpenter. I wonder if the story is like Mr. G. A. Sala's "Journeyman Carpenter," which in my humble opinion would make an admirable domestic drama for Mr. Toole. It is surprising that Mr. Sala has never dramatised this superb tale—a very model of a short story.

A good bustling melodrama, called "Ruth," and written by Messrs. C. H. Ross and Philip Richards, has been produced, with fair success, at the Surrey. There is nothing very original about it, as far as story is concerned; but the construction is good, and the authors have succeeded in introducing several scenes which introduce, in turn, nearly all Mr. E. T. Smith's pantomimists and extras, who are waiting for the pantomime which follows, and may just as well be employed as not. There is nothing very remarkable about the acting, either. Miss Marie Henderson, from the Queen's, plays the leading rôle, and it strikes me that Miss Henderson is almost too good for the business required of her on this occasion. Miss Marie Duval plays a boy's part, and she does not give the slightest offence either in dress or in manner. The transformation scene of the Surrey pantomime is worth the trouble of a long journey. It is certainly the best I have seen this year.

The King's Cross—a pretty little box of a place—is open again, under new management. Miss Amelia Nadir and Mr. Waldron have gathered some clever young people round them. One of the most promising of the young men is Mr. J. Dennis Coyne, the eldest son of Mr. Sterling Coyne, the well-known dramatic writer and critic. A new comedy called "Worth a Struggle" has been produced, but the work is unambitious and does not call for any special remark.

Mdlle. Déjazet, with her French plays, is doing very much better at the Charing Cross than at the Opéra Comique—a beautiful theatre, by-the-by, which has suddenly closed its doors on account of insufficiency of support. It is a thousand pities this elegant theatre should be closed, for here we ought to see the picked comedy company of London. Mdlle. Riel has repeated this week her delicious performance of Blanche in "Le Jolie Fait Peur," which is one of the treats of theatrical London just now.

Mrs. John Wood revives "Paul Pry" for a few nights at the St. James's, and promises next Saturday a new comedy by Mr. James Albery, the successful author of "The Two Roses." The title of the play, "The Two Thorns," is in questionable taste, and certainly does not say much for Mr. Albery's originality. However, I hope for the best.

The Queen's will be closed for a short time during the final rehearsals of "Joan of Arc."

Mr. J. M. Bellow has done so well with his Thursdays at Haslemere-square Rooms that he will continue there for some weeks longer. On Tuesday this excellent reader and gifted elocutionist gave an evening at Exeter Hall; and, as far as I can judge, Mr. Bellow seems to improve every time I hear him. The programme was a simple one, shorn of the attraction either of marionettes or musical accompaniment; but the audience was unusually enthusiastic.

ELECTION INTELLIGENCE.—Mr. Colman was, on Tuesday, returned for the City of Norwich by a majority considerably larger than that by which Mr. Tillet defeated Mr. Huddleston in the summer of last year. Mr. Colman polled 4660 votes, against 3398 recorded for Sir Charles Legard, the Conservative candidate. The election for the county of Galloway also took place on Tuesday, when Mr. Mitchell Henry was returned without opposition. A third election, on Tuesday, took place at Appleby, where the Earl of Bective enjoyed an unopposed return for Westmorland, in succession to his father, the Marquis of Headfort.

THE NAVY ESTIMATES.—The Navy Estimates for the ensuing year were published on Wednesday. The total vote amounts to £9,756,356, being a net increase of £85,826 upon the vote for last year. There are three principal divisions of the vote. The total for effective service is £7,897,946, on which the increase is £109,656. The total for half-pay and military and civil pensions, &c., is £1,775,290, which shows a reduction in half-pay and military allowances of £74,744, and an increase in civil pensions and allowances of £25,103; altogether a decrease of £49,640. For the conveyance of troops the estimate is £153,150, against £137,340 for last year. Coming more closely to the effective service items, we find increase on the following votes:—1, Wages to seamen and marines, £2,693,336—increased, £603; 2, victuals and clothing for ditto, £1,038,202—increased, £69,345; 3, Admiralty Office, £164,499—increased, £131; 4, dockyards and naval yards, £967,418—increased, £89,066; 5, medical establishments, £57,906—increased, £177; 10, sec. 1, naval stores, £837,965—increased, £875; 10, sec. 2, steam machinery and ships built by contract, £751,716—increased, £285,543; 11, new works, machinery, building, &c., £763,394—increased, £19,162. Upon the other seven votes there is an aggregate decrease of £27,247, of which the principal items are £9125—decrease for the coastguard, coast volunteers, and naval reserve; £9174, for miscellaneous services; £5550, for medicines and medical stores; and £1691, for the scientific branch.

MR. PETER RYLANDS, M.P., ON WASTED TAXES.—In a speech at Warrington, lately, Mr. Rylands said that, though there were occasional reductions from time to time in the national expenditure, its steady tendency was to increase, and this because there were lots of people whose interest it was to make it increase, because lots of money got into their own pockets. In support of this fact they had the testimony of Mr. Gladstone, who, speaking during the contest for South-West Lancashire, told them that no Government, however well disposed, could keep expenditure within moderate bounds, unless supported by the constant vigilance of public opinion—that there were knots, groups, and classes of men who had "a constant, quick, unsleeping interest in feeding themselves upon the produce of the public industry;" that if the public wakened they never did, but watched for every opportunity of improving their condition at the expense of the public. To show that this was true, he (Mr. Rylands) might state that between 1810 and 1869 the expenditure had increased by fifteen millions and a half apparently, but by eighteen millions really, inasmuch as the interest of the National Debt was now two millions and a half less than it was thirty years ago. In 1840 the average taxation per head of the population, including women and children, was £1 15s. 9d.; in 1870 it was £2 9s. 3d.; and supposing a family to consist of man, wife, and three children, that was £3 7s. 6d. more per family than in 1840. They must reduce expenditure. He found that the cost of the Civil Service had increased from nine millions in 1840 to seventeen millions and a quarter in 1870. That included nearly half a million a year for the diplomatic service; and he had no hesitation in saying that a very large share of that sum was spent without the slightest possible advantage to the people of this country—in many cases to their positive disadvantage, for their diplomats were constantly interfering and intermeddling with foreign affairs, often getting us into difficulties and quarrels, and sometimes into war. He believed that it was only part of what Mr. Bright had called a *great system of outdoor relief for the aristocracy*. They would scarcely believe that something like three millions a year was paid in the shape of superannuations and pensions. In the public offices there were many more clerks than could be profitably employed; they were highly paid; and on reaching a certain age they retired on large pensions.

Literature.

MORE NEW NOVELS.

Six Months Hence. London: Smith, Elder, and Co.

A book written with remarkable ability, and yet not a pleasant book—a story constructed with considerable power, and yet not a satisfactory story, because of the abnormal and even unnatural conditions that are requisite to its plot. The motive power of that plot is insanity—insanity leading to what would have been an atrocious murder scientifically accomplished, but for the horrible perversion of the moral faculty which was allied to the mania of the chief character in the tale, Mr. Fortescue, who, contrary to all ordinary experience, exhibits calm mental qualities that add charms to his marvellous personal fascinations. The second title of the book tells us that it is "Passages from the Life of Maria (née) Secretan;" and the heroine of the story is herself the narrator. Indeed, it would be difficult to tell the story in any other way. Notwithstanding its unmistakable origin as the production of a careful and delicately thoughtful writer, it would scarcely find readers as a narrative in the third person. The individual interest and the intensity which is always associated with a skilful autobiography are necessary to give it some degree of probability, while the admirable management of its style suffices to preserve it either from becoming too revolting or too closely allied to those mysterious and harrowing romances which have been mostly abandoned by modern readers.

As a modern story, however, there are two faults which are at once apparent: one of art, the other of science. Its very advantages only serve to heighten the first. The introduction of several well-drawn and characteristic people who are accessories to the main incidents and give them life and colour is admirably effected; but we must regard the identification of the locality where the great events of the book occur as a mistake, especially where that locality is a popular seaside resort, with a circulating library system in its very midst. Visitors to Hastings who have read "Six Months Hence" will scarcely be able to avoid an unsympathetic reaction against a novel which makes the caverns of Castle Cliff the scene of a dreadful tragedy, the details of which are given in evidence at Lewes Assize Court and create the utmost local excitement, because of the implication of a brother and sister belonging to one of the most important families resident in the place. It is true that the occurrences are supposed to have happened when Hastings was but the village of Charles Lamb's quaint essay about the "Margate Hoy," but the impression on the reader will none the less remain that this is a defect. A still greater defect, in our judgment, is the incongruity of the insanity with that personal influence, calm deliberation, and intellectual balance which is also displayed by the maniac. The fact is that, instead of being a strong element, indicative of a powerful grasp on the part of the author, this device of madness as the principal motive of a plot is likely to become the resort of weakness in invention and construction. Once let a maniac be the chief actor in a drama, and there is apparently little need to regard consistency. The story may thereafter run in wild vagary, and no morbid extravagance seems to be out of place. We say *seems*, because, after all, this apparent license is but the error of most authors who dare to deal with the dreadful subject as a main element in works of fiction. These very inconsistencies often betray the ignorance of the writer as to the best-ascertained symptoms of insanity and the most careful inquiries of those who have studied the phenomena of mental derangement. Probably there is a sort of method in all madness. That the pages of a novel should be chosen for displaying acquaintance with the subject, we are very far from thinking; but we are equally averse to improbable mania being made the occasion of otherwise impossible incidents.

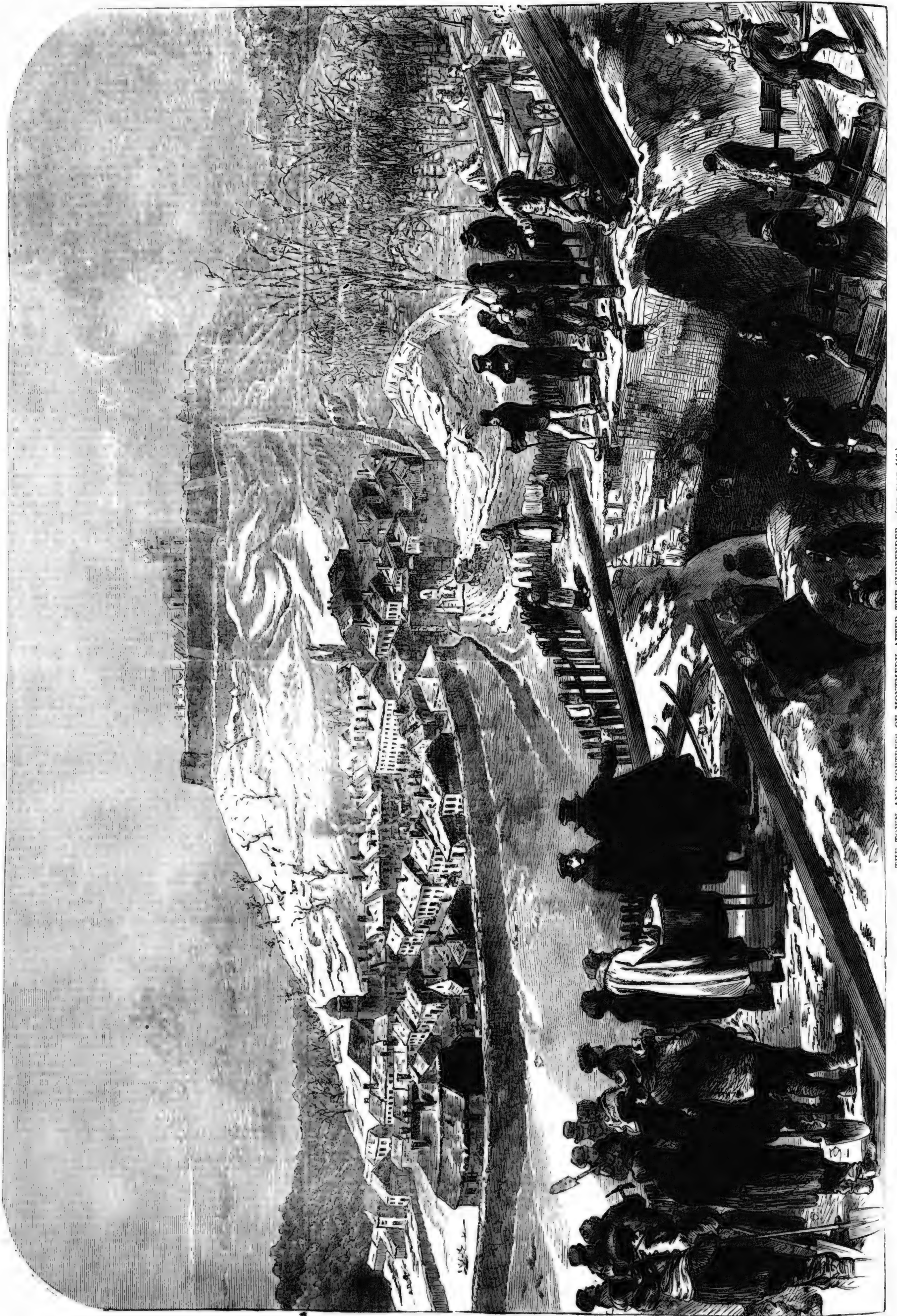
The Margravine. By W. G. CRAVEN. London: Chapman and Hall.

The outer title of this novel is a little disappointing. Taking it up on a wet evening after dinner, when the fire is burning brightly and slippers are a luxury, and one is a little particular about the adjustment of the reading-lamp, there is some danger of beginning the book in a wrong key. Anybody not familiar with Mr. Craven might attribute imagination to something Germanesque, baronial, stately, with a touch of the stiffness of brocade, and a small Court flavour in the mysteries that might belong to the plot. It is true that the sub-title would correct this mood, for it boldly declares the book to be "A Story of the Turf;" but then the sub-title is in rather small type, and who would suppose "The Margravine" to be the name of a mare or the name of a racing event? Probably, however, those who know Mr. Craven and remember his ways would fall into no such error, and for them these two volumes afford a slight but rattling story, which if it reminds us a little too much of certain racing dramas which appeared at the Holborn Theatre not very long ago, at least has the merit of being as amusing in its way as they were in theirs. Charlie Delval, is himself quite a modern dramatic hero, and the other characters are quite in keeping; but the reader will feel a very definite interest in them, in spite of their being occasionally stagey, while the easy manner in which the writer canters along from chapter to chapter, and lands us safely over some very awkward incidents and dangerous episodes, produces a feeling of genuine satisfaction. "The Margravine" is a story which will certainly be attractive to a number of readers who like to "take a spin" of two or three hours, and run through a volume in about the length of two pipes of cavendish.

Contraband; or, a Losing Hazard. By WHYTE MELVILLE. London: Chapman and Hall.

Like all that Mr. Melville writes, these two volumes are distinguished by remarkable power, united to a certain quality which we can best indicate by calling it instinctive melody of expression. The ring, the frequently pathetic strain of his utterances, remain with you long after you have put down the book—even after you are not quite sure about the slighter involutions of the plot—and the story, interesting as it is, constantly gains intensity from the impression made by the grave, and often quaint, thoughtfulness of the writer and the easy rhythm of his style. "Contraband" is too short a tale for us to define the plot without spoiling the enjoyment of the reader, for that plot is, in its way, intricate, and includes a number of personages, all of whom have a definite relation to its development. There is a prevailing note of sadness throughout the book, of course, for the story is in itself full of sad incidents, but Mr. Melville never "piles up the agony;" if he leaves us in tears, they are quite natural tears, not the evidences of tragedy sentiment, but of real sympathetic recognition of sorrows that are those of real life and of phases of it not out of everyday experience.

NEWSPAPER STATISTICS.—From the *Newspaper Press Directory* for 1871 we extract the following on the present position of the newspaper press:—There are now published in the United Kingdom 1450 newspapers, distributed as follows:—England—London, 261; provinces, 831—1112; Wales, 53; Scotland, 131; Ireland, 138; British Isles, 16. Of these there are 88 daily papers published in England, 1 in Wales, 11 in Scotland, 19 in Ireland, and 1 in the Channel Isles. On reference to the edition of the *Directory* for 1861 we find the following interesting facts—viz., that in that year there were published in the United Kingdom 563 journals; of these 18 papers were issued daily—viz., 13 in England, 2 in Scotland, and 3 in Ireland; but in 1871 there are now established and circulated 1450 papers, of which no less than 120 are issued daily, showing that the press of the country has very greatly extended during the last twenty years, and more especially so in daily papers, the daily issues standing 129 against 18 in 1861. The magazines now in course of publication, including the quarterly reviews, number 638, of which 236 are of a decidedly religious character, representing the Church of England, Wesleyans, Methodists, Baptists, Independents, and other Christian communities.



THE TOWN AND FORTRESS OF MONTMÉDY AFTER THE SURRENDER.—(SEE PAGE 116.)

THE DEVASTATION ROUND PARIS.

The ruin wrought all round Paris may be typified by the state of things in St. Denis and its neighbourhood, which is thus described by the special commissioner sent to distribute the *Daily News Relief Fund*:-

"Great as is the misery in St. Denis, it is, after all, but trifling compared with what is now, and will hereafter be, endured in the adjacent villages. I have paid a visit to some of these villages. Within a comparatively short distance are the places which have been the scenes of severe struggles during the sorties, and the sites of batteries during the bombardment. Nearly all these places were flourishing communities before the war began. Those which I have already visited are masses of ruined houses, amid which the miserable owners, who have now returned, may be seen painfully labouring to restore them to something like their former state.

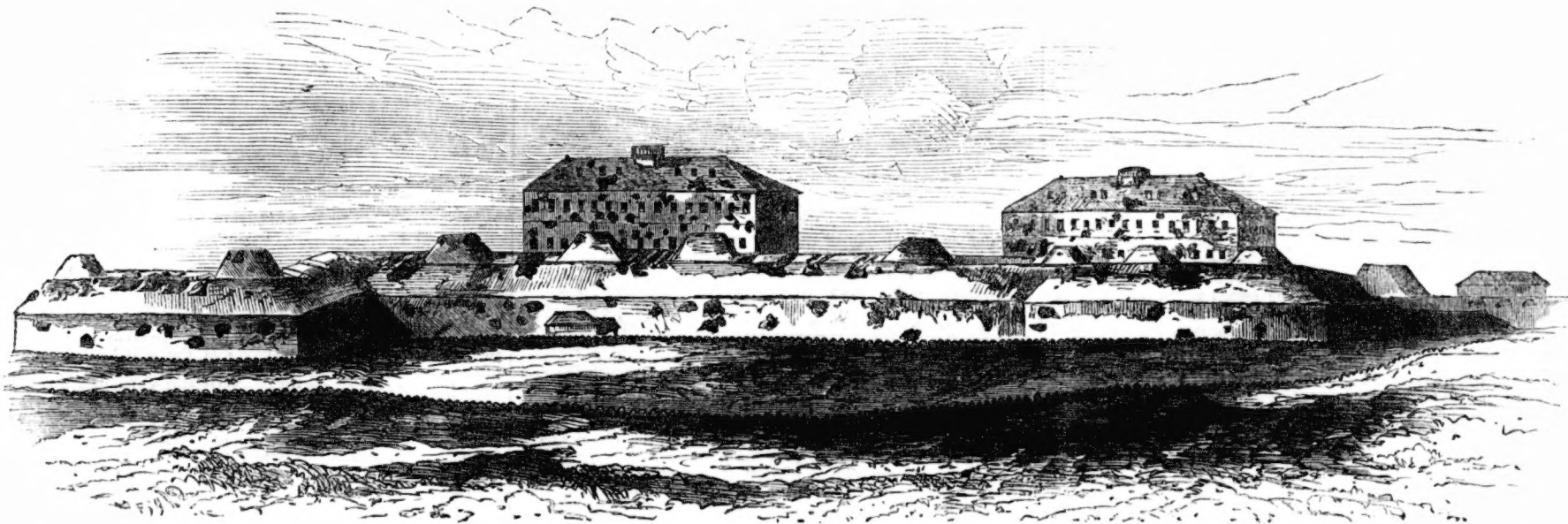
"St. DENIS, Feb. 19.

"Between St. Denis and Versailles there are several places of greater or lesser note which have been caught between two fires, and have suffered alike from the German artillery and from the guns of Valérien. At present it is extremely difficult to make a journey through this section of the country occupied by the Germans. Great repugnance is manifested to permit the inspection of the arrangements which have been made since the German troops have been quartered in the forts and the adjoining villages. An opportunity altogether exceptional has enabled us to enter and leave the charmed circle, and to form an opinion from personal inspection of the existing state of things. How permission was obtained to make this journey is a matter of secondary importance. It may be of interest, however, to state that I had for companion and guide a gentleman who occupied a leading position in St. Denis, and who went to Versailles, with the sanction of the authorities, to prefer a request that consideration might be extended to his fellow-citizens. After having held St. Denis for a fortnight, and quartered a large number of troops on its impoverished inhabitants, the Germans suddenly imposed a requisition for the sum of 800,000*fr.*, to be paid in specie, within twenty-four hours, under the penalty of an additional sum of 50,000*fr.* in the event of the payment being delayed a single hour beyond the allotted period, and of severe reprisals should the payment be refused. The population of St. Denis does not number more than 25,000 persons, of whom the majority are workpeople, who always live

from hand to mouth, and who at this moment have a very hard struggle to obtain the ordinary necessities of life. Many of the richer inhabitants have their places of business in Paris, and, as Parisian merchants, have to pay their share of the requisition of 200,000,000*fr.* imposed on the capital. Moreover, the quantity of specie in Paris is trifling; and the municipality of St. Denis would find it almost impossible to procure 800,000*fr.* in specie at all, far less within the brief space of twenty-four hours. Nothing remained, then, but to sue for mercy. It was easy to urge many reasons not only for delay, but also for the cancelling of the decree. Poor at the best, St. Denis had been severely tried by the long siege and the terrific bombardment. The necessity of accommodating and supporting the army of occupation has imposed a burden on the inhabitants extremely hard to bear, but which they have exerted themselves to support with fortitude and resignation. The requisition was to them the last drop in their cup of affliction. It had not even the justification of a deserved punishment for some error of omission or commission. No disorder in the streets had menaced the peace of the town. No manifestation of ill-feeling had indicated hatred of the victors. The vanquished accepted their defeat with the best possible grace, and have never given way either to vain lamentations or to impotent protests. It is but natural, then, that the principal citizens should have exerted themselves in every conceivable way to represent the actual condition of St. Denis, with a view to mollify the rigour of their conquerors.

"For a considerable distance around St. Denis the land is flat, and has been largely employed as a market garden. It bears a striking resemblance to the tract of country between Hammer-smith and Kew—to that portion of it, at least, which has hitherto been spared by the speculative builder of uninhabitable houses. Under ordinary circumstances these plains would have been prepared to yield a spring crop of vegetables. As it is, they are still untouched with hoe or spade. Last year's produce has not been garnered. Even where there are no graves of slaughtered soldiers the air is laden with the sickening odour of decay. In some fields where crops of grain had been reaped but not housed last September, large circles of black ash show that the sheaves were collected there into gigantic piles and set on fire. This was done for the purpose of embarrassing the enemy. It served, however, to injure friend far more than foe. Owing to this wholesale destruction of precious corn, the peasants of the neighbouring villages found increased difficulty in furnishing the extra supplies demanded of them. In this instance it would have been

better for all parties had the fruits of the earth not been delivered over to the flames. Sad though it is to ride along roads bordered by fields which have been allowed to lie waste, the prospect of ruined villages is infinitely more painful. Rows of what were houses once, but which are now formless heaps of stones, are tokens of desolation of the most lamentable kind. This mournful spectacle does not obtrude itself on the eye of the traveller who journeys along the left bank of the Seine till St. Cloud is reached. The majority of the villages have sustained but slight material injury. The German soldiers who now occupy them are not more to be dreaded than the French Mobiles whom they have displaced. Indeed, while stories are rife of damage done to property by the Germans, it would appear that in this region the Mobiles did the work of destruction so thoroughly as to leave no employment for idle hands and vengeful hearts. Asnières, for example, a village in which nearly every house is a small villa, was occupied by the Mobiles during the siege. The female residents took their departure at the first hint of danger, but the costly furniture which adorned their luxurious residences remained to become the prey of the spoiler. The thieves and scoundrels of the surrounding district played a not unimportant part in the work of pillage. When there was nothing else left to burn, break, or steal, the wooden staircases were torn down and used for firewood. Such is the statement made to me by Frenchmen who had no motive for exaggerating the facts, and who had the best possible opportunities for becoming accurately acquainted with what had occurred. A little way from Asnières, and under the shadow of Mont Valérien, is the village of Suresne, and the vineyards which yield the wine which Henry IV. thought the best of French wines, but which, despite the patronage formerly accorded to it by Royalty, is generally regarded as poor stuff. The handsome bridge which spanned the Seine here has been destroyed. The piers and part of the ironwork alone remain to show where the bridge once formed a convenient means of communication between the two banks of the river. The principal house here is the property of Baron Rothschild. It bears the marks of bad usage. The surrounding grounds resemble a wilderness. But the Germans are not in fault here. Such as it now is, this imposing mansion has remained since 1848. The revolutionists of that year made it the object of attack. Its owner had previously been the chief employer of labour in the neighbourhood, and the principal taxpayer. He was so much incensed at the conduct of those on whom he conferred what he regarded as exceptional



FORT VANVRES, PARIS, BEFORE THE CAPITULATION.—(SEE PAGE 116.)

benefits, that he announced his resolution never again to restore or inhabit his mansion, to which he has adhered with the same firmness as the peer whose new house in Piccadilly has remained unfurnished and unoccupied for upwards of twenty years. Along this route the way to Paris is very short. It is but necessary to cross the Seine to arrive at the Bois de Boulogne. In order to prevent the river being crossed in boats, German sentries are stationed at intervals of five hundred yards. For them it must be as tantalising as for others to be so near to Paris and not to be permitted to go farther. They are literally stopped within sight of the promised land. From rising ground the Arc de Triomphe and the line of the Champs Elysées can be plainly discerned. Without calling in question the accuracy of the statement that the Bois de Boulogne had been cut down, I must qualify it by adding that a large portion of the bois is intact. The wonder is that, considering the scarcity of fuel, so many trees remain standing. With the exception of a bridge across the Seine, which forms one of the entrances into Paris, and which is covered with a crowd of foot-passengers and a chaos of vehicles slowly passing in each direction, nothing specially arrests the attention until we arrive at St. Cloud. Here there is a bridge also, and this bridge appears to be unbroken; yet it is barricaded and guarded by soldiers at both ends."

HOW THE FATE OF ALSACE AND LORRAINE WAS SETTLED IN THE FRENCH ASSEMBLY.

A MOTION of tremendous importance, involving nothing less than the whole question of peace or war, was made in the Assembly on Feb. 17; and, thanks to the resolute attitude of M. Thiers, it was decided in a way not to compromise peace, at least for the moment. To speak of things in their order, M. Grévy, the newly-elected President, took the chair later than half-past one o'clock, although one was the time fixed. Great punctuality is not the practice of French Assemblies. M. Grévy, who last year was bâtonnier of the order of Advocates in Paris, is an old Parliamentary man and a lawyer of the first class. He foresaw, in 1848, the conflict which was certain to arise between an Assembly elected by universal suffrage and a President of the Republic also elected by universal suffrage; and he made a motion, which was supported by a respectable minority of the Constituent Assembly, to the effect that the President should be chosen by the deputies. It has always been remembered that if the "proposition Grévy" had been carried there would have been no Prince-President, no Empire, and probably no wars. He is a man universally esteemed, a little dry and reserved, and, as some say, timid in his manner; but all parties have confidence in his intelligence, impartiality, and rectitude. On taking his seat to-day, he said:—"In confiding to me the Presidency of this Assembly, which holds in its hands the destinies of France, and which, in this hour of peril and mourning, will, I am sure, rise to the height of its mission by a patriotic accord, you have done me great honour and imposed upon me great duties. I shall devote all my strength, impartiality, and devotedness to this duty; and if, with your assistance, I shall succeed in a worthy discharge of it, I think that will be the best way of proving my gratitude. I beg permission of the Assembly to offer thanks, in its name, to our honourable President who has sat here by seniority, and also to our provisional bureau."

By four o'clock it was evident that an event of high interest was looked for. Almost every seat in the Assembly reserved for members was filled. M. Keller, a deputy from the Haut Rhin, a department in the occupation of the enemy, mounted the tribune, and in a clear, mournful, audible voice made the following memorable and, under the circumstances, heartrending speech:—"I have a motion to make which I am sure will meet with your assent, because it involves our honour and national unity. In the name of the people of the Haut Rhin, the Bas Rhin, the Meurthe, and the Moselle, myself and my colleagues, the representatives of those four departments, solemnly declare in the face of France and Europe their determination to stand by their sacred and inalienable rights. Our constituents have sent us here for the sole purpose of protesting that they are, and ever will be, Frenchmen. Alsace and Lorraine will not be alienated. We repudiate beforehand any negotiation, any treaty, separating us from our country; and we deny that even universal suffrage has the power to dispose of us. We have been associated with France for good and for evil for two hundred years, and now that an invader threatens the national honour we declare our unalterable determination to remain still French. Europe, we believe, will not allow a nation to be transferred like a flock of sheep. Europe knows that the tranquillity of France is a guarantee for the peace of the world, and that a peace made up now at the price of a cession of territory would be a cause of subsequent troubles. The inhabitants of Alsace and Lorraine proclaim their right to remain Frenchmen, and swear eternally to defend their right against all comers." M. Keller concluded by calling upon the Assembly to vote a resolution in the sense of his speech, and to declare that the matter should be taken into consideration as "urgent."

There was a good deal of applause while M. Keller spoke, but only the minority clapped their hands, the majority feeling how serious the proposition was. However, the question of "urgency" being put from the chair, at least three-fourths of the hands of the Assembly were held up in favour of it, and there was no opposition. The President then said, as if he were putting a matter of course, that, urgency having been voted, the proposition would be referred to the bureaux, who would appoint a committee to make a report to the House next day. But then a little piping but very clear voice was heard to say "Tout de suite" (directly). The voice was that of M. Thiers. M. Rochefort immediately afterwards exclaimed, but in a widely different spirit from M. Thiers, "It is important not to lose an instant of time. I demand that the motion be referred to the bureaux instantly. Cries of 'No, no!' responded to M. Rochefort. But M. Thiers rose, and when he was on his legs silence prevailed.

M. Thiers, with constrained and impressive passion, frequently striking his breast with his right hand, said:—"The Assembly will understand that on such a serious question we must act seriously. Do you mean to give to your negotiators (and I do not yet know who they will be) an imperative mandate, or will you leave them a discretion? I quite share the sentiments of M. Keller about these very interesting provinces. But what we have to consider is the interest of all France. We must know what we wish and say it plainly, and not allow ourselves to be carried away by words. A question of this importance cannot be allowed to hang over our heads for twenty-four hours. The only course worthy of France is to say at once whether she means peace or war. For my own part, I am ready to serve my country as I have

done all my life; but I will not accept a task which it would be impossible for me to fulfil. There is no need of time for consideration. Everybody must have already made up his mind upon the real question, and I therefore move that the bureaux shall meet to report upon it this very instant."

The motion being adopted without opposition, the Assembly dispersed to its bureaux. At a few minutes before six the public sitting was resumed, and M. Keller's valiant motion was shelved, without discussion, by the adoption of the following resolution, proposed unanimously (less one vote) by the committee of the bureaux:—"The Assembly, receiving with the utmost sympathy M. Keller's declaration, relies upon the wisdom and patriotism of its negotiators." *Anglicè*—Adieu, Alsace! adieu, Lorraine!

AUSTRIAN POLITICS.

THE effect of the Franco-Prussian war upon the Austro-Hungarian Empire has not been long in showing itself, although perhaps in an unexpected form. As the Potocki Ministry had failed to accomplish its task of reconciling the claims of the Centralist party and of the so-called national oppositions of Bohemians, Tyrolese, Poles, &c., it was well known that it would be dismissed from office at the close of the Session of the Delegations. The question, however, as to who should be Count Potocki's successor greatly exercised public curiosity, and the appointment of Count Hohenwarth's Ministry took the public by surprise. A Vienna correspondent of the *Pesth Reform* gives the following explanation of its appointment:—"When it became evident that the successes of Prussia were decisive, Count Beust, one of whose talents consists in tacking so as to sail with every prevailing wind, threw himself into the arms of the Centralist or self-styled 'Constitutional' party, whose principal leaders—such as Herr Giskra—were known to favour the idea of an alliance with Prussia. Count Beust advertised his new-born zeal for strict Centralist principles in the famous letter he wrote last December, snubbing Dr. Rieger and the eighty other Czech deputies of Bohemia and Moravia, in which, among other statements, he said that no more conciliatory proposals would be made to the Czech malcontents. In pursuance of this alliance between Count Beust and the Centralists, a list of members of that party was submitted to the Emperor's notice while the delegations were sitting, with a view to their succeeding the Potocki Ministry. In the mean time, however, the Austrian delegation showed considerably less willingness than the Hungarian to vote the sums required by the Emperor's military advisers for the defence of the empire. Above all, they decidedly refused to vote the supplies for fortifying Prague and the line of the Ens. Herr Schaub declared that Upper Austria did not wish to be made the scene of war against their German brethren, and Herr Rechbauer observed that the friendship of Prussia betokened protection and not danger. Their words produced on the mind of their Sovereign an impression which Count Beust appears not to have foreseen. The Emperor perceived that the alliance with Prussia advocated by the Centralists was a subject-aliance, differing only in the degree of subjection from that of Bavaria or Wurtemberg. Herr Giskra and his friends at once lost favour at Court as men who desired to place their country in a defenceless condition as regarded Prussia, and it was determined to fall back on those political elements whose loyalty is above suspicion, the Tyrolese and the

so-called Catholic party among the Austrian Germans. Count Hohenwarth, as a man outside all pronounced political parties, was made Prime Minister, and, emphasizing in the clearest manner his disapprobation of the foreign policy of the Centralists, the Emperor nominated as Minister of Public Defence the officer who had designed the defensive works for which the supplies had been refused. The position of the new Ministry naturally involves those new advances to the Czechs which Count Beust with such impolitic ostentation declared should never be made; and the position of this versatile statesman, who proposed to Russia to modify the treaties of 1856, is at present in the highest degree insecure.

MUSIC.

RUMOUR is busy with the prospects of Italian opera for the coming season, and all sorts of stories fly from mouth to mouth, most of them utterly false. We may, however, state with some confidence that Mdlle. Christine Nilsson will not return from America to co-operate with Mr. Gye, Mr. Mapleson, or anybody else. Her success among our cousins has been so great, and the desire to see her on the lyric stage is so strong, that it is more than probable she will remain to reap the full advantage of a position unequalled since the days of Jenny Lind. Gossips may also accept as a fact the statement that Sir Michael Costa has not yet pledged himself to conduct at Drury Lane for Mr. Mapleson. That the parties have been in treaty is notorious; but we hear that Sir Michael requires a guarantee of efficiency in the shape of engagements—Mdlle. Nilsson, perhaps, among them—which have not yet been made. Thus the matter is reported by those who ought to know; but, in any case, something definite will turn up shortly, the time for action being near at hand.

"Don Pasquale" was added to the repertory of the Italian Opera Buffa on Monday night, and obtained a very favourable reception. Respecting a work so well known, because so often presented at Covent Garden, with Madame Patti as Norina, there is nothing new to be said; and we may go on, at once, to a performance which was on the whole very creditable to the Lyceum company. True, Mdlle. Calista, who appeared as the heroine, seemed overweighed by a part requiring high dramatic as well as vocal powers; and had, moreover, to struggle against the recollections of one of the greatest artists of the day. This took somewhat from the general success, though Mdlle. Calista was by no means the worst actress we have seen attempt the character, while her singing was creditable in a high degree. Signor Picciolo efficiently represented Ernesto, and sang "Com'è gentil" so well as to obtain a hearty encore. Doctor Malatesta had a bustling representative in Signor Torrelli, an artist who plays many parts and never fails to please; but the life and soul of the performance was Signor Borella, whose embodiment of the silly old Don Pasquale deserves to be spoken of in the highest terms. This gentleman more and more establishes his reputation as a dramatic artist of no ordinary ability; while as a buffo-singer he must be placed after Lablache, and before Ronconi. His Don was a study in art from first to last, and should be seen by everybody who desires to know the utmost that can be made of the character. The chorus was good, and the orchestra more efficient than it had been for some weeks previous.

At this week's Monday Popular Concert Herr Joachim made his second appearance, but played no solo; instead thereof joining Mr. Charles Hallé in Beethoven's G major sonata (op. 96), which was rendered by both artists in a style not often surpassed. Herr Joachim's share of the adagio was something to remember; and almost inclined us to believe in the fabled power of Orpheus. Surely, if the Hungarian violinist needed to redeem a Eurydice, he could do it easily enough. Besides the sonata, Herr Joachim took part in Mozart's quintet in G major (No. 6) and Mendelssohn's pianoforte quartet in F minor—the first an old favourite at St. James's Hall; the second a work of interest because due to the earliest development of its composer's genius. Both were admirably played, notwithstanding the presence of a stranger among the performers—M. Daubert taking the place of Signor Piatti, who was absent through illness. Mr. Hallé's solo was Weber's sonata in D minor (op. 49), which, though not a model of its kind, presented an agreeable variety. Mr. Santley sang three songs, including two novelties by M. Gounod—"The Fountain Mingles with the River," and "It is not always May." Respecting these, we may have somewhat to say in its proper place next week.

The Ash Wednesday concerts at the theatres call for little remark, made up as they were of odds and ends, from oratorios and symphonies down to comic songs. Their promoters aimed to please the greatest variety of tastes, and succeeded; but the word art should not be mentioned in connection with such affairs, and no art-respecting critic can set himself to honour them by a notice.

The last Ballad Concert of the season was given, in St. James's Hall, on Wednesday night, attracting an audience which in numbers and enthusiasm equalled the best of its predecessors. "Billy's reason" (Molloy) and "By the margin of fair Zurich's waters" were so admirably rendered by Madame Sherrington that enthusiastic demands for an encore followed each. For the first she substituted the popular "Thady O'Flynn," and "Love was once a little boy" for the second. Miss Dalmaine gave, with much acceptance, the "Blue-bells of Scotland" and "I knew a maiden fair to see" (Monk). Madame Patey won encores in "Always alone" (Henriette) and "The Land of the Leal;" a portion of the former she repeated, substituting "Annie Laurie" for the latter. "The Blind Girl's Dream" (Louisa Grey) and "I'll speak of thee" (Hawes) were Miss D'Alton's songs; she also sang, with Mr. Santley, Balfe's duet, "O'er Shepherd's Pipe" (encored). Mr. Reeves's songs were "The Requital" (Blumenthal), "Those dear bright Eyes" (Reyloff), and Dibdin's "Tom Bowline;" a portion of the last being repeated in response to vociferous demands. "The King and I" (Henriette) and Prince Poniatowski's "The Yeoman's Wedding Song," which have become established favourites, and no wonder, were Mr. Santley's songs, both being encored and a portion of each repeated. Chevalier Antoine de Kontski was the pianist, and played two of his own transcriptions—"Home, sweet home" and "Stelluzza," the last obtaining an encore. "Oh, who will o'er the Downs" (Pearsall), Molloy's "Gleaners," and "The Fox jumped over the Parson's Gate," were capitally given by Mr. Fielding's glee party, the last creating considerable amusement. Mr. Hatton conducted as usual.

Mr. Leslie's so-called "Historical Concert" took place in St. James's Hall, on Thursday evening, when a most interesting programme was gone through. We shall return to this performance in our next.

At to-day's Crystal Palace concert the symphony will be Schumann's No. 1, in B flat; the overtures selected are Cherubini's little-known "L'Hôtelier Portugaise" and Berlioz's "Benvenuto Cellini;" Mr. Henry Holmes will play Spohr's 15th violin concerto, and Mr. Santley will sing.

LONDON INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION OF 1871.—During the week ending Feb. 18 upwards of 3500 British objects, consisting of sculpture, pottery, woodens, and educational works and appliances, have been delivered at the Exhibition buildings, besides foreign objects from Bavaria, Belgium, and Saxony.

CONVOCAION.—Convocation was, last Saturday, prorogued until June 13. In the Lower House the Prolocutor, in accordance with the commands of the Upper House, nominated the Deans of Canterbury (Dr. Payne Smith), Ely (Dr. Merivale), Rochester (Dr. Scott), and the Archbishop of Maidstone (Mr. Harrison), to fill the vacancies on the Revision Committee. Canon Conway presented a report from the Committee on the Bural Acts, praying the Upper House to oppose any such alterations in the law as were proposed in Parliament last year. The report was adopted. A resolution of sympathy with the Irish Church passed by the Upper House was also adopted. An amendment moved by Canon Selwyn, asserting that the Act of 1869 was passed in direct contravention of the fundamental statutes of the realm in the reigns of King William and Queen Mary and succeeding Sovereigns, was negatived.

HOW THE PRUSSIAN MILITARY STAFF IS TRAINED.

COLONEL STOPPEL, in a report dated in 1868, furnishes some information as to the training of the staff in the Prussian army which may with much advantage be studied by those to whom will be committed the duty of reorganising the British Army under Mr. Cardwell's scheme. In Prussia, it seems, there exists no positive law or regulation relative to the composition of the staff. The principle alone has been laid down that the officers of the staff must be the most intelligent and best educated of the army. They are recruited from among the officers of all arms, and enjoy special advantages of quick advancement, but are removed from the staff at any moment when they fail to show the zeal and aptitude required. In the Prussian army advancement is regulated entirely by seniority. The King reserves to himself the right of advancing officers for extraordinary merits, which, however, he uses but very sparingly. The officers appointed to the staff gain on an average from seven to eight years in their promotion over the other officers. General Moltke is the permanent chief of the staff of the whole German army. He selects the officers to be admitted, and regulates their employment and promotion. The lieutenants of all arms have, after three years' service with their regiments, the power of offering themselves for entry to the War Academy at Berlin. Of about 120 who present themselves every year, forty are admitted. The first and second years the officers spend nine months at the academy and three months with their regiments, to take part in the great autumn manoeuvres. The tenth month of the third year is employed to make, under the guidance of the professors, a so-called staff journey, during which military problems are solved. After the three years' course the officers are sent back to their regiments. The professors and the director of the academy designate to General Moltke those who have shown themselves most capable and studious. Of these he selects twelve of different branches of the service, who in the course of the year after they leave the academy are attached for six or nine months to a regiment of another arm than theirs. Those who have shown zeal and aptitude to the last are called by General Moltke to the great staff at Berlin. There they spend from one and a half to two years under the immediate supervision of General Moltke himself. The General familiarises them successively with the work of each of the six subdivisions of the great staff; he gives lectures to them, and reads and criticises their written productions when all are present, without, however, making known the authors. After this stay with the great staff, the officers are again sent back to their regiments, and those whom General Moltke has finally selected for the staff learn it only some months after, when they are promoted to the grade of captain of the staff, of which they then put on the uniform. General Moltke now employs those who have shown some special aptitude on the great staff at Berlin, and the others join the staffs of the army corps and divisions, where, however, they have not, as in France, to waste their time with routine office work, which is done in Prussia by sergeants and soldiers. After about two years these Captains have again to resume regimental service as chiefs of a company, a squadron, or a battery. Having done this duty for two years, they are then promoted to the grade of Major of the Staff, and employed by General Moltke according to the exigencies of the service. For one year before being promoted to the grade of Lieutenant-Colonel the Major must do regimental service as chief of a battalion of infantry or of a corresponding subdivision of a regiment of cavalry or artillery. Again, before being able to reach the grade of Colonel, he must for one year have commanded a regiment. In order not to neglect the chance of recruiting the staff with those officers of superior merit who have not presented themselves for admission to the military academy the Colonels of the regiments propose to the commanding Generals, and these to General Moltke, the regimental officers possessing great knowledge and extraordinary aptitude. General Moltke has the right of employing them on the great staff at Berlin, and, if satisfied with them, to nominate them officers of the staff. The chief of the staff of each army corps makes every year, with the officers of the staff, a so-called staff journey, for the purpose of extending their knowledge. General Moltke himself travels every year, with the officers of the great staff at Berlin, to one of the provinces. During these journeys military problems of all kinds are discussed and solved, under the direction of the chiefs. General Moltke excludes from the staff every officer who is physically incapacitated from becoming a first-class horseman.

MR. BRIGHT.—The statement that Mr. Bright is likely to return, in the course of a few weeks, to his Parliamentary duties is not well founded. Acting on the permission given him by his constituents, and on the advice of his physicians, the right honourable gentleman will probably make no attempt to take part in public affairs during the present Session. His health is making steady, though necessarily gradual, progress towards complete restoration. Mr. Bright's reappearance in the House of Commons will most likely be preceded by a visit and a speech to his constituents.—*Daily News.*

THE PARISIAN CARICATURISTS AND THE ENTRY OF THE PRUSSIAN.—The anticipated entry of the Emperor of Germany and his troops into Paris still excites much popular feeling; but by way of palliating the effect of the entry the street boys are selling caricatures of the military procession, under the title of "La Marche du Bonf Gras," to which Pagan festival we are annually treated when the sun enters the sign of Taurus. It is feared that this attempt to throw ridicule on the pageant which is being prepared with much splendour at Versailles will exasperate the enemy and not incline his heart towards this people. The first figure in the caricature is an Italian boy with a burly gurdy; then comes General Vinoy, bearing a huge key, followed by the Emperor and Count Bismarck, in very quaint costume. Behind these superb conquerors marches the fat ox which represents France. The animal is surrounded by bludgeoned men in pointed helmets, and is mounted by M. Thiers, dressed like a cherub and looking like Silenus. Lawyer Favre, in his costume of the Palais de Justice, comes at the tail of the Bonf Gras, with a huge portfolio containing the papers relating to the affair. The German troops, commanded by "our Fritz," mounted on a donkey, close the procession, which winds away in the distance. There is a good deal of humour in the design, and, oddly enough, nothing indecent.

RATING OF GOVERNMENT PROPERTY.—A meeting was held, on Monday afternoon, at the Westminster Palace Hotel, for the purpose of promoting combined action and making a general representation to the Government on the question of the rating of Government property. Mr. Scurfield, M.P., presided. Mr. Hughes, vestry clerk of Plumstead, said that the local board of his district had taken the initiative in the matter, and it was their desire that a permanent standing committee should be appointed to hold meetings in London, as occasion might require, until a settlement of the question was obtained. The Government had promised to introduce a general measure with regard to taxation; but they were afraid it would include the rating of charitable and other institutions, about which there was a great deal of feeling. He considered they should not rate charitable institutions, but confine the question to the rating of Government property. There were fifty or sixty towns interested, and it was thought that joint action would have the best result. There were representatives present from several metropolitan districts, from Birmingham, Canterbury, Devonport, Dover, Manchester, &c.; so that altogether they had a fair representation of the towns interested. Dr. Brewer, M.P., Mr. Talbot, M.P., and others having addressed the meeting, Mr. Hughes said the promoters desired that the rating of Government property should be separated from other public property, such as charities, &c.; and, secondly, they desired to know what principle of valuation should be adopted to ascertain the rateability of Government property. Mr. Shaen thought Government property should be rated just as private property was, and moved, "That, in the opinion of this meeting, Government property ought to be rated for local purposes exactly the same as if it was in private hands." Colonel Learmonth seconded the proposition, which was carried. A deputation on the subject afterwards waited upon Mr. Goschen, President of the Poor-Law Board, to urge these views upon the Government. Mr. Goschen said the principal question was as to the mode of valuation, and on that nothing had been said by the deputation. The annual value had been suggested; but how were the arbitrators to determine what was the annual value? To do so would be extremely difficult. The Government were prepared to accede to the principle that would make Government property rateable like any other property. Government was now considering the principle of valuation; but it was their wish that it should be on equitable terms, such as would apply to any other property. Mr. Stone, M.P., said the deputation would not go beyond the principle that it should be the same as other owners.

MOVABLE MORALS.

It is worth considering whether it would not be as well to re-construct the code of morals taught in the school-room into something more in accordance with what the pupils will find practised in the world when they enter it. It seems so much time lost in misdirection to teach them that patriotism, self-sacrifice, persistent endeavour against heavy odds, truth, and simplicity are qualities to be admired, when they will find themselves ridiculed and probably ruined if they put them into action. Speak of these things in the past and they are virtues which crowned men with glory; practise them in the present, and they are follies, if not worse, which cover them with shame. Take certain of the heroes and patriots of old, those men of far-off history who organised a hopeless resistance against an impregnable despotism, and died gallantly in the attempt; they are quoted for admiration, and the after-advantages of what was at the time a foredoomed endeavour are elaborately proved. But when men at the present day do substantially the same thing, they are incendiaries or self-seekers, fanatics or fools, and our young students of comparative history find that to be a Greek or a Roman changes the significance of patriotic or political action, and that a hero in a toga is a very different thing from a commissioner in a frock-coat. So when men and women went to the stake rather than deny the truth that was in them, we hear much about the blood of the martyrs being the seed of the Church, and of the gratitude which we owe to those who devoted themselves for the gain of our spiritual liberty. But if one among ourselves goes a step beyond these liberties he is howled over with no more mercy than his predecessors, and we think him an undoubted fool for troubling his own conscience and his hearers over what is settled and done with. For a mediæval Huss to preach against the bondage of the Church and to die for the right of spiritual freedom is one thing; for a clergyman of the Establishment to expand received formulas is another; and though we do not burn our modern Huses, we punish them in another way, and hang them in their own ropes. Then we hear grand things about simplicity—how Cincinnatus went back to his plough, and how the Lacedæmonians ate black broth, and so on; but in the world we find that luxury is an essential part of a man's credentials, and that those who cannot make a good show need not look for the suffrages of society. Perhaps no one has been held up more frequently to ridicule than the modern Cincinnatus, Garibaldi, whose finest virtues fail to impress those on whom his smallest follies pass unnoted. All for love, too, is a moral archaism utterly out of place at the present time; and not the best man, but the longest purse carries the day with maidens, as with mammas. What would all for love do, with the world lost, as it would be? What would an honest man's affection count, in comparison with the opera-box and the pair of bays, the town mansion and the country place? All for love in modern thought means a few months' rapture in a fool's paradise, and a life of repining as the bill to be paid for the enjoyment. And, looked at in this light, a balance at the banker's is more to the purpose than that stirring of the senses the rash young call love. For self-respect, too, substitute what will pay. What enthusiast used to talk of *Noblesse oblige*? Nobility has now no more duties than have the common folk. To get a shilling's-worth for elevenpence three-farthings, to traffic in jobs, and not to be squeamish about that bucket of pitch at the side, are modes of action not by any means foreign to our modern representatives of Sir Galahad and the Chevalier Bayard. In fact, the morals of the day mean simply success and what will pay. All that we have learned about righteousness for righteousness' sake, about abstract virtue, self-respect, and the thing which is good in the sight of God and our own souls before all else, is simple moonshine, so far as its translation into active life is concerned—morals that won't wash, that don't pay, and that will land one on the lowest step instead of the topmost round, if persisted in. If your country is invaded, cry "Peccavi!" and knuckle under before striking a blow or proving your comparative weakness. If the mass of the community are basely indifferent to national integrity, respect their cowardice rather than urge them on to the fight for honour's sake, and make the braver minority to pass under the harrow rather than stimulate the backward to a common self-defence. If your soul is tormented with doubts, bury them in the basket of loaves and fishes, and do not quarrel with your bread and butter because you are not certain of the genuineness of the dairy. What is truth? A phantom, a mere matter of relative proportion; and it is better to preach—well, what you are not quite sure of, than unsettle the faith of simple folk. The idea of sacrificing a comfortable position for what you are pleased to term conscience, honesty, honour, is too absurd; and, moreover, you cannot prove your position, and really one's vagueness is quite as good as another. Absolute martyrdom is rascally; and we have done our best to make our mild version of it ridiculous. There is no doubt, however, about one thing—which is, that morals are, as we say, movable; that words have lost their old significance, and things their former value; that virtue counts for nothing, and success and what will pay, for all. The aspirations of men which do not lead to present immediate good are so much wasted force; and the present penny is of more value in our eyes than the future pound. No one works for posterity, or for sake of the best, irrespective of success. Just as the modern landowner plants larch, rather than oak, because of its quicker growth and consequent earlier returns, so do we care for the qualities which bring us immediate personal reward, and especially for common-sense—that much misused euphemism by which we mean servility, acquiescence in dishonour, if it pays; self-aggrandisement, by shady means, if necessary, but self-aggrandisement at all events; and the abnegation of all those generous impulses which would lead to the damage of body or estate for the mere sake of upholding a principle.—*Pall-Mall Gazette.*

THE ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY'S COLLECTION has just been enriched by the birth of a hippopotamus in their gardens.

THE MANHOUS FRENCH RELIEF FUND now considerably exceeds £120,000. It was stated at a meeting of the committee on Tuesday that £60,000 worth of provisions had been, in all, sent to Paris by the committee.

CHAIR OF GEOLOGY IN THE UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH.—We understand that the Home Secretary has intimated to Dr. Lyon Playfair, member for the University, that he will submit Mr. Archibald Geikie's name to the Queen, as the first Professor of the new Chair of Geology. This has been done at the express recommendation of Sir Roderick Murchison, who, as already announced, gave the sum of £6000 to found the chair. Mr. Geikie is director of the Geological Survey of Scotland—an office which will enable him to act effectively in the faculty of applied science, which, it is to be hoped, will form before long a prominent feature in our University tuition.—*Scotsman.*

THE PUBLIC HEALTH.—Last week the aggregate mortality in London and nineteen other large towns of the United Kingdom was in the ratio of 28 deaths annually to every 1000 of the present estimated population. In the metropolis 2363 births and 1625 deaths were registered; the former having been 8 below, and the latter 37 above, the average. Zymotic diseases caused 433 deaths, including 218 from smallpox, 11 from measles, 48 from scarlet fever, 8 from diphtheria, 58 from whooping-cough, 35 from fever (of which 11 were certified as typhus, 15 as enteric or typhoid, and 9 as simple continued fever), and 14 from diarrhoea; thus, to these seven principal diseases of this class 592 deaths were referred last week, against 359 and 384 in the two preceding weeks. The largest increase was again shown in the deaths from smallpox and whooping-cough. The fatal cases of scarlatina have averaged but 45 in the past three weeks, while in the previous ten weeks the average had been 164 per week. The deaths from smallpox in London, which numbered 218, showed an increase of 7 upon the number of the week preceding. The fatal cases showed a decline in the east and west districts, while there was a considerable increase in the north. The present epidemic is more severe than any during the past thirty-one years, the deaths having averaged 152 in the past nine weeks; while in an equal number of weeks during the previous most severe visitation (1846-1) the weekly average was only 71. In the past seven weeks of the current quarter, of the 1184 deaths from smallpox in London, 887 occurred under twenty years of age, 268 between twenty and forty, 67 between forty and sixty, and only 12 at sixty years and upwards.

A LITERARY LIBEL CASE.

"SALA V. HODDER AND STOUGHTON."

This case, which was tried before the Lord Chief Justice and a special jury, at Guildhall, on the 17th inst., has excited a deal of interest. The defendants pleaded not guilty.

Mr. Serjeant Parry and Mr. M. Williams were counsel for the plaintiff; Mr. D. Seymour, Q.C., and Mr. Edward Clarke appeared for the defendants.

Mr. Serjeant Parry, in stating the case to the jury, said the plaintiff was the well-known and very popular author, and the defendants were publishers, carrying on business in Paternoster-row. The plaintiff during the whole period of his active life had been connected with literature, and he was the author of many original works of fiction and art criticism. He was also a journalist, and prided himself on the fact that he earned his livelihood in connection with the public press of this country, having for the last fifteen years been connected with the *Daily Telegraph*. It was painful in the extreme that a gentleman who had been all his life a hard-working literary man, not having, perhaps, a penny in his possession but who had honestly and industriously earned, to know that in mid-life he was compelled to bring an action to vindicate his character from as gross and scurrilous attacks as was ever penned against the private character of any man. Mr. Sala was at a loss to know what had made him the victim of Mr. Hain Friswell, a well-known literary man, and should have caused him to pen the article complained of. Mr. Friswell had, through the defendants, published a book called "Modern Men of Letters Honestly Criticised," which was intended as a permanent addition to the literature of the day, and which had been circulated throughout the whole world. The article was headed "George Augustus Sala," and he ventured to say they would all be astonished how any man of judgment might feel could have ventured to publish in these days such an article as he would read to them. The passages complained of in the libel, and set forth in the declaration, were as follow:—

Looking with a merry, audacious, bold look out of your photographic portrait album, which contains so many vile slanders upon yourself, your wife, and your friends, is one whose name stands at the head of the present paper—a Bohemian writer of a bad school, but yet a brave man; one that has done very little good, and yet one full of capabilities for good; a writer of sound English, and a scholar, yet a driveller of ideas, high-flown nonsense; a man of understanding, when he likes, and yet of both and nonsense as well, when he chooses to abuse himself; one of keen intellect, high qualities, prodigious memory, great picture-qualities, and a photographic accuracy, and yet as utterly careless of his own reputation, of the dignity of letters, of what is due to himself, that he can sell his pen to describe a Jew clothier's, an advertising furniture-dealer's, a Liverpool dapper, a Manchester hatter's, or a St. Paul's church-yard bonnet-shop; a man who ought to have taken the lead in any profession, has done but little upon one only. . . . If the genius gets into the hands of the Jews, is often drunken, always in debt, sometimes in prison, and is totally disreputable, living *à tort et à travers* the rules of society, these newspaper proprietors think more and more of him, and go down on their knees and bribe him to write.

"Great wits to madness sure are near allied,
And thin partitions do their bounds divide."

When the great wit writes a novel, draws all the money, gets in a mess with it, and asks somebody else to finish it, when he is unwilling to pay; or when he starts on his travels, leaving a proprietor of a periodical with a half-finished serial on hand, the admiration of Bohemia, printer, and public is enormous, the recalcitrant author is afterwards pardoned and received with open arms. What a clever fellow he must be for these people to stand up to! Like this has been the reasoning with regard to Mr. Sala, of whom we are of course to narrate all these little tales. . . . He is of mature age—let us say forty-five—has worked for the press nearly thirty years out of that, for he began early, and it is whispered, wrote at one time for the excellent Mr. Edward Lloyd, of Salisbury-square, certain romances of the Mrs. Ratcliffe school, which our best novelists of to-day have copied, such as *Atah, the Betrayer*; or, the *Murder at the Old Snitby*; "Julia, the Deserted," and the like. These penny romances were not vicious, though most exciting. One called "Sweeney Todd; or, the String of Pearls," related how a certain barber in Fleet street cut the throats of his customers, and then sunk them down a trap to the kitchen, where they were made, and whence they issued as mutton pies (laughter). . . . When Dickens established his *Household Words*, with its unattainable motto, "Familiar in their mouths as household words," which it certainly was not, a dozen young men, knights of the pen, rushed to aid the Arthur of the literary round table. Our hero was one, and as Mr. Dickens, with singular generosity and blindness, determined that everybody should "gush," he was gushed, and wrote Dickensese as he wrote, the facile pen of Sala was in great request. Sketch after sketch of real verve and merit, each of which was attributed to the great Dickens, and many of which were republished in his name in New York, proceeded from Sala, notably "Captain Quag's Conversion," "The Key to the Street," and others of the same sort. . . . The implicit confidence which young readers, and old fellows, too, of the middle class, place in the dissertations of the young lions of the *Daily Telegraph* is founded in the love they have for the bold, buoyant style in which the latter write. We have it from a certain Camerilla that it upon the wild denunciations of some of these famous leaders, that the grammar is very bad indeed; and as to the Latin, we know that even the lynx-eyed supervisors can't keep it right. But what then? *Que voulez-vous, mes amis?* You get your lurid leader, all blue and glitter, and wonderful of its sort. Well, it is nice to read; but, after all, what does it mean? You begin a dissertation on the Virgin Mary, and you find that ere you have read three lines there is a learned essay on the Papal mysteries and the wondrous rites of Venus. As for policy and study of the constitution of this great country, Henry on only knows where the *D. T.* has led us. When that fine property was in the market, after the gallant Colonel Singh had brought it out and failed, there was a perturbation among the band of Bohemians who wrote its articles. Sala was among them, of course. Does not everyone know his style? He had gone to Russia; for Dickens was always talking of the Nevsky prospect and eternal snow. He had been here, there, and elsewhere; and he lets you know it. Happily for the band of penmen, astute gentlemen of an ancient but evilly people bought the *Daily*. Its sale went up, advertisements made it pay, and Sala was very wisely made a special correspondent. . . . Next follow his touch, and so genial articles, beautifully calculated for the medium of Cockneydom and the intellects of virtuous publicans, intelligent grocers, and readers of a certain class; and last of all in merit are his novels. . . . To some his tipsy writing is odious; to few even his very coarsest work can be of use. His face, as one can see in a coloured photograph, is an index of his style: he is bold, rosy, and Bohemian. . . . He is a man of potentiality, not of accomplished fact. In the mean time, reckless writing has produced money—recklessly gotten and, it would seem, as recklessly distributed—and, so far, the end which the vivacious writer has aimed at in literature is answered. A nobler purpose would have achieved a nobler and far higher result.

The article complained of contained some praise as well as blame. Bohemian was no doubt a word

to which there was no precise meaning. It might characterise the gipsy vagabond life of those who came from Bohemia; but it certainly was not a very complimentary term. There was not a word of truth in the statement that the defendant had written trade advertisements, or, indeed, in the article at all, which he could only describe as a mahawk, scalping-knife description of criticism, which he had long thought had been banished from the literature of the country; and he was happy to say a more truculent libel had not been published in this or in any other country for many a long day. One of the most important, and he ventured to say the most useful, of Mr. Sala's pursuits was that of special correspondent to the *Daily Telegraph* in almost every part of the world, except India; and, as was to be expected, travel had had some effect on Mr. Sala's personal appearance; and, when the writer of the article described him as looking like Bardolph, it was meant to insinuate more than it really meant. Mr. Sala would deny that he ever wrote any works for Mr. Lloyd of the description referred to. The late Mr. Charles Dickens was Mr. Sala's patron in his early years, as he had been of many other young struggling men of letters, and the first £5 he earned by literature was what he received from that gentleman. He was honoured with the late Mr. Thackeray's acquaintance down to the period of his death, and was engaged by him to write those amusing papers on "Hogarth," which appeared in the *Cornhill Magazine*. After calling attention to other passages in the article, the learned counsel said they were meant to be offensive, and there was not one of them which they could say was honest and just criticism, because when anything was said in praise it was immediately clinched, as it were, with something personal and insulting. Men of genius like Mr. Sala were perhaps more sensitive to attacks of this kind than other persons, and it was not surprising that when they were attacked in this way they should complain. He called upon the jury to give the plaintiff exemplary damages.

Evidence was then given of the publication of the book, and that a copy was sold after the action had been brought to Mr. George Lewis; who also said, in cross-examination, that he was Messrs. Levy's solicitor, and that the author of the libel, after the action was brought, offered to make an ample apology.

Mr. G. A. Sala: I have been connected twenty-two years with literature as a profession. I have published twenty-five octavo volumes. In early life I was scene-painter at the Princess's Theatre. In 1850, at the request of Mr. Thackeray, I wrote the paper on "Hogarth" in the *Cornhill Magazine*. I have for fifteen years specially devoted myself to journalism in connection with the *Daily Telegraph*. I was not connected with it in Colonel Sleight's time. I did not know him. My labours on the *Daily Telegraph* are those of leader-writer and special correspondent, and I have been to all parts of the world for that paper. I never sold my pen to describe trade establishments for advertisers. (The plaintiff was examined *seriatim* on the charges contained in the libel, to all of which he gave a denial.) I was never connected with Mr. Lloyd. He is a respectable newspaper proprietor. The statement contained in the article that I wrote the novels mentioned is a pure and unmitigated falsehood. I never wrote such trash, so calculated to debase the minds of the young.

The Lord Chief Justice said that part of the article describing the *Daily Telegraph* leaders was more an attack on that paper than on the plaintiff.

The plaintiff also said there was no truth whatever in the statements contained in the article, and that he never wrote such works as those named, which were published by Mr. Lloyd, and, taking the book in his hand and reading the passage, Mr. Sala said, "I am not in the hands of the Jews. I am not drunken. I am not always in debt, not sometimes in prison; and as regards my being totally disreputable, I must leave it to the public at large and my own particular friends to be the best judges (laughter). The only way I can attribute the charge of not finishing my work was in this way. I had occasion to go to South America, and it so happened that a work on hand was unfinished. I sent the parts for publication from South America; but owing to the disturbed state of the country one portion of the copy of a particular number failed to reach the publisher, and it was in consequence necessary that some one else should finish it."

Cross-examined by Mr. D. Seymour, who asked him if he particularly objected to the word "goguenard." Mr. Sala said—It is an idle, offensive word, but I don't particularly object to it. Mr. Seymour—Does it not mean jolly or rollicking? Yes; but if you refer to an old French dictionary you will find it also means "goggle," and as I have an affection of the eyes I have no doubt Mr. Friswell thought by using the word he was inflicting additional pain, and it also shows the feeling with which the libel was written." Don't you know that the expression "tipsy writer" originated with the *Saturday Review*, and has reference to the style of the writer, and not to his state or condition?—I am not aware of it. Is it not an expression well known in literature?—I consider it is the most offensive term that could be used. It implies that I am tipsy when I write. Are you aware that the book is a reprint of a series of articles previously printed in a Manchester paper?—I am not. Have you not received an offer of a most ample character from the author, and an assurance that the book should be withdrawn?—Yes; but only after the edition has been sold and distributed all over the world, and is lying on all the club tables. I never had any personal communication with the author, and I have no personal feeling against him. The author also offered to pay the costs if I would withdraw. Are not literary men, like other persons, liable to make mistakes?—I consider this is a malignant attack, and for the worst purpose.

Several other witnesses having been examined, and the defendants adding no evidence,

Mr. Serjeant Parry addressed the jury, calling upon them to give the plaintiff exemplary damages.

Mr. Seymour, in addressing the jury for the defendants in mitigation of damages, said the defendants were publishers of undoubted respectability, and men who would be the last to give publicity to anything if they knew it would convey pain to anyone, or injuriously reflect on the character of any individual. In the various

matters that occupied their attention in the course of their daily business, a certain amount of confidence had to be reposed in the authors whose works they published; and, from Mr. Friswell's antecedents, they had no reason to suppose he would pen libellous matter; and so far from that gentleman having any desire or intention to libel Mr. Sala, he, immediately before proceedings were taken, offered to make the most ample apology, pay the costs, and cancel all the copies left on hand. From the first moment when attention was called to the publication there had been no attempt on the defendants' part to express any other feeling than regret for any pain Mr. Sala might have suffered from the publication. They had done the most in their power, in good faith, to carry out Mr. Friswell's offer.

The Lord Chief Justice, in summing up, said the article which formed the subject matter of the action was complained of by the plaintiff in two respects:—First, as containing an unfair and malignant attack upon the plaintiff's literary productions and literary character; and, in the second place, as containing imputations and reflections upon his personal character. The question with regard to the first was, whether they were of opinion that the observations and animadversions contained in the article were fair, honest, and candid criticism on the plaintiff's writings, or one of a malignant and personally hurtful character. The law, as laid down by Lord Ellenborough, was that a comment on a literary production, exposing its follies and errors, and holding up the author to ridicule, would not be deemed to be a libel, provided it did not exceed the limits of fair and candid criticism by attacking character. Independent of the production, it was for the benefit of the public; and, although the author might suffer loss from the criticism, the law did not consider him injured, but that it was a loss he ought to sustain, inasmuch as it was only a loss of time and profits to which he was not fairly entitled, and the reason of it was for the public good that the writings of public men should be subjected to fair, candid, and honest criticism. If a man sitting in judgment, or, rather, asking the public to sit in judgment, on any given work which the writer believed had a mischievous tendency, or if he believed it calculated to pervert or vitiate public taste and to be injurious to the literature of the country, it had been held by Lord Ellenborough to be privileged. But when a critic, from a cruel and spiteful disposition, or from any sinister and unworthy motives, took the opportunity of criticising a work in a malevolent or malignant manner, in order to pull a man down from the pedestal on which his public reputation and fame had placed him, it was not privileged, and such a writer was liable to an action for libel. A man had no more right to detract from the literary reputation of a writer than he had to damage the character of a private individual. All public men were open to public criticism; and public writers who seek the approbation of the public must submit to public criticism, though they might sometimes smart under it, the same as others had very often to submit to what they deemed unfounded and unjust. His Lordship, having called attention to the various passages complained of, observed there had been a most careful absence on the part of the defendant's counsel from saying anything that day that could in any way give additional pain to the plaintiff.

The jury retired for about three-quarters of an hour, and then returned into court with a verdict for the plaintiff. Damages, £500.

JUDGMENT IN MR. PURCHAS'S CASE.—The judgment of the Judicial Committee in this case was given on Thursday morning. Their Lordships considered that Mr. Purchas had offended against ecclesiastical law by wearing the chasuble, alb, and tunicle during the communion service, by using wine mixed with water and wafer bread in the administration of the communion, and by standing with his back to the people, between the communion-table and the congregation, during

the consecration prayer. The charges of wearing a cap, called a biretta, and of using holy water were not sufficiently proved to enable their Lordships to come to a decision; and on these points, therefore, the appeal must be disallowed. As all the charges, except in two comparatively unimportant particulars, had been proved against Mr. Purchas, he must pay the costs in both courts. The judgment, which occupied more than an hour in delivery, was read by the Lord Chancellor. The Archbishop of York, the Bishop of London, and Lord Chelmsford were also present.

WAITING FOR BREAKFAST.—A correspondent of the *Times* in Paris describes an extraordinary scene of which he was a witness:—"I had heard, on the occasion of my previous visit to the Rue des Petits Pères—the scene of Mr. Moore's distribution—that the applicants took up their positions overnight in a queue, so as to be among the first served in the morning; and, determined to verify the fact, I accompanied Colonel Stuart Wortley at midnight to the locality in question. Passing through streets still dark and silent in Paris at this hour, we reached the Bourse, and already the hum—one might almost say the subdued roar—of thousands of voices struck the ear. In a moment we came upon the outskirts of what was apparently a mighty crowd, though it was too dark to see much until we found ourselves actually in the midst of a dense mass of women and children, heaped upon one another in amicable confusion, and extending down the street as far as the eye could penetrate its gloom. Not that it was altogether dark, for numbers of candles flitted through the crowd, or formed the centre of groups of squatting or dozing figures. The scene was so unexpected and unique that for a moment it was difficult to realise that here were at least 10,000 human beings who were deliberately bivouacking in the streets of the most beautiful and luxurious capital in Europe for the sole object of being the first to receive some bread and cheese in the morning. I asked one of the women when she expected to arrive at the door of the warehouse where she would receive her portion. 'The day after to-morrow morning, Monsieur,' she replied, as calmly as if she was talking of a journey to St. Petersburg. 'What, are you prepared to pass two successive nights in the streets?' I asked. 'Pourquoi pas?' she said; 'all the others do it.' 'Do you think what you receive at last will be worth waiting for forty-eight hours?' 'I don't mind waiting any more than my neighbours for what those good English send us; they tell me it is well worth while, and be assured, Monsieur, we shall never forget the generosity which has given us food when we wanted it so much.'"

THE LONDON GAZETTE.

FRIDAY, FEB. 17.

BANKRUPTS.—S. N. DICKSON, Great Winchester-street-buildings, merchant and gunpowder-maker.—F. S. HAYVEY, St. John's-wood, stationer and printer.—J. B. SIMPSON, Bishopsgate-street Within, shipowner.—C. TAYLOR, John-street, Upper Holloway, contractor.—J. UNDERWOOD, Wilmington-street, Clerkenwell, engine-turner.—W. WESTLAKE, Stroud, Gloucestershire, tailor.—W. BROMLEY, Manchester, yarn agent.—J. W. COLLINS, Hereford, butcher.—G. COWPER, York, innkeeper.—J. GEBBIE, South Shields, boot and shoe maker.—J. W. HIGGINS, Exeter, chesedeaner.—W. H. HEWINS, Northam, butcher.—P. F. SPEAR, Warsaw, near Farnham, cement manufacturer.—J. STOW, Nelson, plumber.—F. J. ROBERTS, Birmingham, accountant.—W. S. WOOD, Oxford, licensed victualler.—M. WHITMAN, Northam, farmer.

SCOTCH SEQUESTRATIONS.—A. LUMSDEN, North Middleton, near Gorebridge, builder.—A. K. BROWN, Govan, hatter.—J. PATTISON, Glasgow, calenderer and packer.—A. S. MALLAN, Glasgow, commission merchant.—W. HAIGGART, Dundee, wine merchant and restaurateur.—J. HENDERSON, jun., Helensburgh, ironmonger.—J. STRANG, Bathgate, spirit merchant.

TUESDAY, FEB. 21.

BANKRUPTS.—T. HUTCHINGS, Alwin-road, Lewisham-road, contractor.—A. VAN DRAAG, Crown-street, Schio, tobacco and cigar dealer.—W. D. BECKWITH, Bury, wine and spirit merchant.—E. CROSSLEY, Halifax, boiler-maker.—T. DAVIES, Merthyr Tydfil, innkeeper.—F. B. EGAN and W. RAYNHAM, Manchester, commission agents.—D. GOLDTHORP, Cleckheaton, card-maker.—J. W. HIGGINS, Exeter, chesedeaner.—W. H. HEWINS, Northam, butcher.—P. F. SPEAR, Warsaw, near Farnham, cement manufacturer.—J. STOW, Nelson, plumber.—F. J. ROBERTS, Birmingham, accountant.—W. S. WOOD, Oxford, licensed victualler.—M. WHITMAN, Northam, farmer.

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